



Kite Tales

Volume 53, Number 9

May 2018



**Bullock's Orioles, Spring Lake
Courtesy of Tom Reynolds**

**Next RRROS General Meeting & Potluck
Sugarloaf State Park
May 9th, 5:30 pm**

Monthly Meeting & Spring Potluck: Weds, May 9th, 2018, 5:30pm. Meet at the picnic tables across from the main parking lot, at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park, Kenwood, at 5:30 pm. From Hwy 12, take Adobe Canyon Rd, a few miles southeast of Oakmont. Follow Adobe Canyon Rd to its end at the park. Main parking lot is on the left, just past the entrance kiosk (there is a parking fee.)

Save the date: Weds, Sept 12th, 2018, 5:30pm. Annual Fall Potluck: Likely will be at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park. Look for details in Sept Kite Tales.

UPCOMING RROS FIELD TRIPS & EVENTS

Saturday, May 12th, King Ridge Rd. Leader, Bill Doyle (shortbill@comcast.net) Meet at 8:00am at the bakery in Duncans Mills. Bring lunch, layers, fluids and folding chairs. No bathrooms once we leave Duncans Mills. Heavy rain cancels.

Saturday, May 26^h, Putah Creek Riparian Reserve on Pedrick Rd from Hwy 80, Davis. Leader: Ruth Rudesill 707- 481- 0768. Meet at Sonoma Park & Ride Hwy 116 x 121 at 7:30am. Bring liquids; we will be done by lunch but can head to Lake Solano if the group wishes.

Saturday, June 9th, Laguna de Santa Rosa. Leader, Bill Doyle (shortbill@comcast.net) Meet at 8:00 am, in the parking lot behind Hydro Depot and Sebastopol Bike, at the intersection of Hwy 12 and Morris Rd, Sebastopol. This is the first stoplight as you enter Sebastopol from Santa Rosa. Turn left at the light. We will explore “the other” Laguna Trail, which is crowded with singing and nest building birds in early June. Heavy rain cancels.

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

Supporting Conservation in Oaxaca, Mexico, and January 2019 RROS Trip

Dates are: January 22 to 29, 2019. Gene Hunn continues to organize this international outing for us. Eight folks have stepped forward to fill the slots; the trip is many months off and plans change so please let Gene know if you'd like to be on the wait list. More details in April Kite Tales or from Gene at enhunn323@comcast.net.

During the April meeting, RROS voted in the new slate of officers for 2018-19

Many thanks to our departing President and Vice President (-:

Congratulations to these 4 officers for volunteering to lead us for the next year !!

- President: Anne O'Donnell
- Vice-President: Gene Hunn
- Secretary: Rita Bevans
- Treasurer: Rob O'Donnell

New Chairs for Other RROS Roles:

- Eva Valfer will become the Kite Tails editor starting with the September 2018 issue.
 - Her E-mail address is: evaantonvalfer@gmail.com
 - Ruth Rudesill will become Field Trip Coordinator; EM is: ruthier@sonic.net
 -
 -
-

Observations		Mar 21 to Apr 20, 2018		Compiled by David A. Hofmann		
Species	Dates	Location	Cty	#	Observer(s)	
Blue-winged Teal	03/24	Valley Ford Wetlands	SON	6	PeD	
Blue-winged Teal	04/04-5	Laguna X Stony Pt Rd pond	SON	1	AlW, ScS	
Hooded Merganser	03/27	Laguna X Sanford Road	SON	2mf	DAH	
Hooded Merganser	04/04-10	Santa Rosa Creek Trail	SON	1f	BrW, photos	
Hooded Merganser	04/09	West County Trail	SON	1f	Te&MiT	
Hooded Merganser	04/14	Willowbrook Ct. pond	SON	8	DoK	
Ring-necked Pheasant	03/22	Laguna de Santa Rosa Trail	SON	1	LiH	
Ring-necked Pheasant	03/30	Hwy 37	SON	3	Je&EvV	
Ring-necked Pheasant	04/10	Skagg's Island	SON	10	MuB, mob	
Sooty Grouse	03/25-31	King Ridge Road	SON	3	WiG, DoK, mob	
Swainson's Hawk	03/31	Laguna de Santa Rosa Trail	SON	1	MaB	
Swainson's Hawk	04/03	Arnold Drive	SON	1	Je&EvV, photos	
Swainson's Hawk	04/08-18	Hudeman Slough	SON	1	EuH, JaD	
Swainson's Hawk	04/10	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	1	MaB, photo	
Swainson's Hawk	04/17	Ramal Road	SON	2	AnF	
Prairie Falcon	04/05	W. Cotati Avenue yard	SON	1	ScS	
Prairie Falcon	04/08	Hudeman Slough	SON	1	EuH	
Black Rail	03/26	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	GaT	
Black Rail	04/10	San Pablo Bay NWR	SON	1	JoN, mob	
Virginia Rail	04/10-12	Sugarloaf Ridge State Park	SON	2	EuH, IaM, mob heard	
Sandhill Crane	04/16	Petaluma	SON	1	KeW, fly-over	
Solitary Sandpiper	04/19	Spring Lake Reg Park	SON	1	BoB, DeFi, DaHe	
Rock Sandpiper	03/25	Bodega Head State Park	SON	1	Bas van Schooten	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	03/22-23	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	Ma&LuS, MiS	
Glaucous Gull	03/24-26	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	GaT, MiS	
Common Tern	03/29	Jenner Beach	SON	1	Mi&SuG, photos	
Western Screech-Owl	03/29	Willow Creek Road	SON	3	JaD	
White-throated Swift	03/24	Hudeman Slough	SON	1	DoK	
Costa's Hummingbird	04/13	Sebastopol yard	SON	1m	ScC	
Calliope Hummingbird	04/14	Wof Stony Pt Rd off Yuba	SON	1m	LiV	
Lewis's Woodpecker	03/22-04/03	General Vallejo House	SON	2	MiC, LiH	
Willow Flycatcher	04/19	Willow Creek Road	SON	1	KeP, MaG, heard	
Canyon Wren	04/13	R. L. Stevenson St Park	SON	1	JiC, mob	
Grasshopper Sparrow	03/28	Carmody Road	SON	1	Te&MiT	
Harris's Sparrow	03/21-23	Bean Ave, Salmon Creek	SON	1	Br&OrO, JaD photos	
Yellow-headed Blackbird	04/18	Tolay Lake Regional Park	SON	1	PeC, mob	

Observer/s for this period: Will Anderson, Mario Balitbit, Bob Battagin, Murray Berner, Scott Carey, Michael Carroza, Jim Chiropolos, Peter Colasanti, Jared Dawson, Peter Delavalle, Deborah Fitzpatrick, Andrew Ford, Maureen Geiger, Will German, Mike & Sue Gragg, Darlene Hecomovich, David A. Hofmann, Lisa Hug, Eugene Hunn, Don Kirker, Ian Morrison, Joey Negreann, Brook & Orion Oconnor, Ken Poerner, Scott Sorby, Michael Stanley, Mark & Lucas Stephenson, Gabriel Tarantino, Teresa & Miles Tuffli, Jeff & Eva Valfer, Rudyard Wallen, Alan Wight, Ken Wilson.

PISHING WITH PARMETER
YUCATAN & COZUMEL ISLAND, March 8-17. 2008

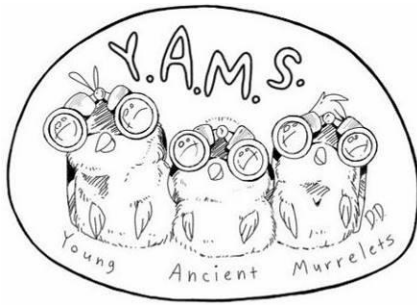
My son, John, and I arrived on Cozumel Island a day early, which we spent birding from a hired taxi. We saw nearly all the endemics, including several lifers. The group met on the island on March 8. One bird, which we really wanted to observe, was the Cozumel Thrasher. There had been no sightings of this species since before a severe hurricane a few years earlier. However, despite our diligently searching, we were not successful. Some of our best sightings included: Magnificent Frigatebird, White Ibis, Ruddy Crake (a rail), Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, Royal Tern, Caribbean Dove, Yellow-lored Parrot, Mangrove Cuckoo, Cozumel Emerald and Canivets's Emerald (hummers), Caribbean Elaenia (flycatcher), Masked Tityra, Black Catbird, Tropical Mockingbird, Cozumel Vireo, Yucatan Vireo, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Scrub Euphonia, many species of wintering N. A. warblers, Yellow-headed Grassquit, and Orchard Oriole.

The following day we took a ferry to the mainland to Playa de Carmen, and then a small bus to Coba. Coba is a magnificent Mayan ruin with a very large pyramid, plus other buildings. It is an awesome birding place, set in a deciduous forest. Highlights include: Roadside Hawk (a Buteo), Short-tailed Hawk (another Buteo), Limpkin, Spotted Rail, Clapper Rail, Red-billed Pigeon, White-tipped Dove, Olive-throated Parakeet, White-fronted Parrot, Squirrel Cuckoo, Ferruginous Pigmy-Owl, Yucatan Poorwill, Greater Nightjar (the latter two on a night trip), Wedge-tailed Sabrewing (hummer), Cinnamon Hummer, Black-headed Trogon, Turquoise-browed Motmot, Northern Barred Woodcreeper, Eye-ringed Flatbill (flycatcher), Stub-tailed Spadebill, Bright-rumped Attila, Black-crowned Tityra, Clay-colored Robin, Green Jay, Yucatan Jay, Lesser Greenlet (a vireo), Scrub Euphonia, Gray-crowned Yellowthroat, Red-throated Ant-Tanager, Yellow-winged Tanager, Black-headed Saltator, Yellow-backed Oriole, Yellow-tailed Oriole, Orange Oriole, and Black-crowned Oriole. (we had 5 species of orioles in a single fruit tree), and Yellow-billed Cacique.

The afternoon of 3/12 we were at Chichen Itza Mayan ruins. This is a spectacular place to visit! On the 13th we were at Uxmal, another outstanding Mayan ruin. Birds in these two areas included: Red-billed Pigeon, White-winged Dove, Ruddy Ground Dove, White-tipped Dove, Groove-billed Ani, Blue-crowned Motmot, Keel-billed Trogon, Golden-fronted Woodpecker, Golden-olive Woodpecker, Lineated Woodpecker, Barred Antshrike, Ivory-billed Woodcreeper, Yellow-olive Flycatcher, Tropical Pewee, Boat-billed Flycatcher, Rose-throated Becard, Ridgeway's Rough-winged Swallow, Spot-breasted Wren, White-bellied Wren, Clay-colored Robin, Long-billed Gnatwren, Yellow-throated Euphonia, Gray-throated Chat (a handsome bird), Blue-gray Tanager, Green-backed Sparrow, Altimira Oriole, and Hooded Oriole.

Our final birding spot was Celestun on the west coast of the peninsula. This is where Alex Dzib, one of our leaders, lived. Lots of water here with resultant water birds. Highlights of these 2 days (15th and 16th) were: Reddish Egret, Boat-billed Heron, Bare-throated Tiger-Heron, Caribbean Flamingo (flock of 300), Common Black Hawk, Plain Chachalaca, Black-throated Bobwhite (in the hotel garden!), Laughing Gull, Vaux Swift, Mexican Sheartail (hummer), Pygmy Kingfisher, Least Flycatcher, Vermillion Flycatcher, Common Tody-Flycatcher, Great Kiskadee, Social Flycatcher, Cave Swallow, Yucatan Vireo, White-lored Gnatcatcher, Mangrove Vireo, Olive Sparrow, Painted Bunting, and Melodious Blackbird.

A total of 213 species, 23 were lifers, for me. The Mayan ruins were amazing; considerable time was spent exploring them.



YAMS Trip Report from Santa Rosa Creek Trail

We had a wonderful YAMS trip to the Willowside Road, Santa Rosa Creek Trail and Delta Pond on Saturday. Gabe, Beatrice, and I went along with our leader, Lisa, and parent helpers Scott, Tony, David, and Mark. So many birds were singing that it was almost deafening. Black-headed Grosbeaks, Bullock's Orioles, Warbling Vireos, Pacific Slope Flycatchers, Western Wood Pewees, Yellow Warblers, Spotted Towhees, Song and Chipping Sparrows were all singing loudly. I found an Anna's Hummingbird nest made of sticks, moss, and lichen with the female sitting on her eggs. David found a huge bushtit nest that looked like it was foot long. Beatrice spotted a female Bullock's Oriole gathering nesting material from an old nest. We spotted a Common Loon feeding on Delta Pond. When we got to the corner on the south side, I spotted what I thought was a Solitary Sandpiper in the marsh below. It was quite a bit smaller than a nearby greater yellowlegs with a very dark mantle and small bill. Gabe saw it doing a subtle bobbing dance but less dramatic than a spotted sandpiper. We ruled out a lesser yellowlegs, because when it flew Lisa saw a very dark under-wing. Next, we heard a hawk calling that we thought was the Common Black Hawk. When we rounded the corner, we got lucky and spotted it near the nesting Cormorants in an Oak Tree. We were thrilled to find and study such a rare hawk! We wound up seeing 82 species before noon! What an amazing day!

Report by Lucas Stephenson. Photos by Lucas and Mark Stephenson.



Photo Gallery by David A. Hofmann

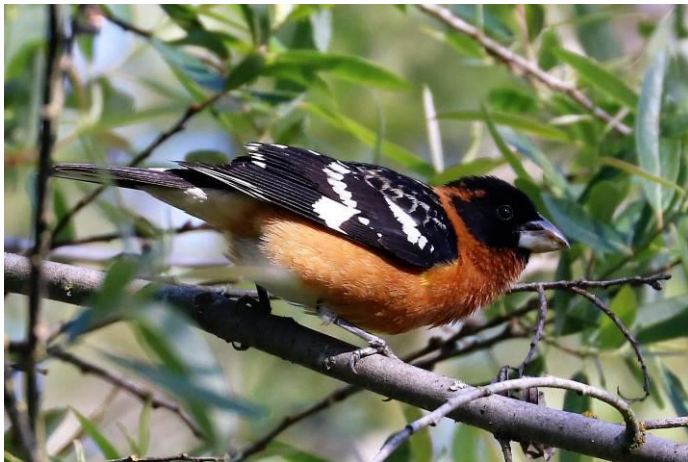


California Quail



California Brown Pelican

Bodega Head State Park



Black-headed Grosbeak
Santa Rosa Creek Trail



Sonoma Chipmunk
Pine Flat Road



Western Gull



Western Meadowlark

Bodega Head State Park

Photo Gallery by Tom Reynolds, Spring Lake



Wood Duck Family and Red-eared Slider

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 October through April, at 7 pm at the First United Methodist Church, 1515 Montgomery Dr, Santa Rosa. Sept & May meetings are outside at 5:30pm. Annual dues are \$20 per individual, \$25 per family, and \$5 per student. 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	889-4724
	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
	Hospitality	Linda Hammer		gardenladylee@aol.com	823-4389

Kite Tales Deadline is the 20th: Submit observations to David Hofmann and other items to Eva Valfer.

KITE TALES
421 St. Mary Place
Santa Rosa, CA 95409

