



Kite Tales

Volume 51 Number 1

September 2015



Blue Grosbeak, Willow Creek Rd., by David Hofmann

**RROS General Meeting,
September 9, 2015 5:30 p.m.,
Sugarloaf Ridge State Park,
Picnic Area**

**Wednesday, September 9, 2015-
Annual Fall Potluck:** Sugar Loaf
Ridge State Park. Take Adobe Canyon
Rd. off Hwy 12, south of Oakmont,
into the park. Meet at the picnic area
across from the main parking lot at
5:30 pm.

Save the date: October 14, 2015**Shorebird Identification:**

Lisa Hug will give tips and techniques for identifying shorebirds. She will discuss what to look and listen for when trying to distinguish the different shorebirds. The following Saturday, October 17th, Lisa will lead a field trip at Bodega Bay for participants to use the knowledge they gained at her presentation. Those of us who attend Lisa's presentation and field trip will no longer have to use the term "peep" unless the bird is very, very far away.

FIELD TRIPS – September, 2015, and beyond:

September 1, 2015, Tuesday: UC Davis Putah Creek Riparian Reserve. Leader: Ruthie Rudesill, 707-833-6026, ruthier@sonic.net. Join us to search for fall migrants at the Putah Creek Reserve! This oasis in the Central Flyway attracts many migrants in the protected riparian corridor of Putah Creek. In the past few years there have been many warblers (including eastern species), vireos, orioles, flycatchers, thrushes, and even a Yellow-billed Cuckoo (very rare). Also home to otters and mink. Meet at 6:45 AM, at the Park N Ride at Hwy 116 x 121, south of Sonoma, or meet at 8:00 AM at the Reserve parking lot. Take Interstate 80 east, exit Pedrick Rd in Dixon. Travel north over the freeway to the Putah Creek bridge, and turn immediately left off the bridge onto a gravel driveway (no sign). There are gas, food, and restrooms at the gas stations at the Pedrick Rd exit and a port-a-potty at the Reserve. We will not eat lunch there as it gets hot by noon. Bring water and snacks, or eat after the trip.

UPDATE: PELAGIC TRIPS, FALL, 2015: All Aboard! This year RROS is running two pelagic trips to the deep water hotspots of Sonoma and Marin counties, one on either end of high season. Sunday, September 6, is prime time for migrant tubenoses, and Sunday, October 25 could produce some seldom seen winter specialties. To reserve space, members can send their check, for \$140.00 per person, to Peter, made payable to Don Howard. Don won't deposit the check until after the trip. If you have any questions call or email me, though details concerning logistics and expectations will naturally be sent to all who join. Peter Colasanti, peter_colasanti@yahoo.com 524 East D Street, Petaluma, CA 94952-3212, (707) 763-2450.

September 6, 2015, Sunday: Bodega Canyon and Cordell Banks Pelagic Trip. Led by all. Bodega Canyon and Cordell Banks aboard the New Sea Angler out of Bodega Bay. Peter Colasanti, organizer. **Last Call:** If you want to make sure you're on the Sunday, September 6 ride, make out a check for \$140, to our esteemed Treasurer Don Howard and send it off to: Peter Colasanti 524 East D Street Petaluma, CA 94952-3212 707 763-2450 peter_colasanti@yahoo.com.

September 19, 2015, Saturday: Bodega Bay Shorebirds and Seabirds: Leader: Gene Hunn, 707-981-7301, enhunn323@comcast.net. We will bird around Bodega Harbor from Doran Spit to Bodega Head, checking the bay mudflats for shorebirds and whatever else following the tides and for rocky shore species and pelagics on the jetties and on the rocky far shore. Bring a lunch or have some chowder at Spud Point. Meet at the big dirt parking lot on Westside Road at Bayflat Rd, 8:30 AM. Heavy rains (don't we wish!) cancel.

Field Trip Report, June 5-7, 2015: Some 20 RROsers trekked to the Sierras for our 2nd annual Sierra Valley/Yuba Pass June extended weekend. Our home base was the Cottonwood Creek Campground, just off Highway 89 north of Truckee, and four miles south of Sierraville. Thunderstorms were predicted, and we did hear a few rolls of thunder and a few spots of rain but otherwise the weather was, as usual, perfect. Some arrived Thursday afternoon, others Friday morning. Just over half camped on the “Flammulated Owl Loop” of the campground; others commuted from more civilized accommodations south and west. The trip began officially Friday morning at the Donner Camp Picnic Area just north of Truckee, and ended nearby at Perazzo Meadows Sunday afternoon. A grand total of 124 species were recorded by one or another member of the tour group.

Cottonwood Creek Campground was very birdy. Robins woke us each morning at 4:30 AM, and nighthawks and poorwills serenaded from dusk till dawn. The elusive Flammulated Owl returned for a second summer, following their discovery here last June by our RROS team. There was at least a pair, if not three individuals, calling, though less consistently than last year. One bird roamed our campsite loop, calling for long periods, starting about 10:30 PM (after we were all in the sack).

Early morning was most productive, with seven warbler species, four flycatchers (Dusky and Hammond’s for close comparison; wood pewee on a nest), vireos, woodpeckers (including White-headed), nuthatches, Mountain Chickadees, Chipping and Song Sparrows, Green-tailed Towhees, Townsend’s Solitaires, Golden-crowned Kinglets (nest building), distant Mountain Quail, and a territorial male Calliope Hummer, on the same twig as it favored last year. Vaux’s Swifts and Red Crossbills flew over on occasion.

The Marble Hot Springs Road, Maddalena Preserve, and the matrix of ranch roads through the valley offered opportunities for close views of bittern, White-faced Ibis, Sandhill Crane, ducks (included a nesting pair of Redheads), nesting Willets, Wilson’s Snipe and Phalarope, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, sage specialists such as Sage Thrasher, Brewer’s and Vesper Sparrows, and Horned Larks. We studied several Swainson’s Hawks in various plumages. A Barn Owl family peered from their box in a ranch shed and Ruthie spotted a family of Burrowing Owls nearby late Sunday (while off on her own). Several pronghorns grazed the fields, including one with a half-grown calf.

Saturday morning we climbed west to Yuba Pass (6700 feet) in the higher montane forest. Cassin’s Finches and Evening Grosbeaks foraged along the edge of the highway, perhaps for salt. Fox and Lincoln’s Sparrows, Willow, Hermit, Audubon’s, and MacGillivray’s Warblers, and Hermit Thrushes sang high in the firs or from the brush and willow margins of the meadow. Red-breasted Sapsuckers and Hairy Woodpeckers had active nests. An Olive-sided Flycatcher called for “beer” from a tree top. A high flight of white pelicans seemed out of place.

Sunday morning we worked our way through the Antelope Valley on a rough road, for a picnic at the Rotary Picnic grounds on Smithneck Road, south of Loyalton. The resident pair of Lewis’s Woodpeckers tended their nest, joined by several more west side species such as scrub-jay, California Quail, Orange-crowned Warbler, Bewick’s Wren, and Bullock’s Oriole to pad our list.

And there were lots of flowers and flutterbys to distract our attention. All in all a fine weekend in our sacred mountains.

Observations: Apr. 21-Aug. 20, 2015

Compiled by David A. Hofmann

Species	Date/s	Location	County	#	Observer/s
Blck-billed Whistling Duck	8/02-07/15	Lake Raphine	SON	1m	DaW, mob, photos
Note: The Calif Bird Record Committee will determine if wild. If so, it would be a first cty record.					
Black Scoter	7/26-8/01/15	Coleman Beach	SON	1f	WiA, DoR, Br&OrO
Common Goldeneye	5/16-19/15	Bodega harbor	SON	1f	DAH photo
Red-breasted Merganser	5/19/15	Bodega harbor	SON	1m	ChD
Laysan Albatross	7/31/15	west of Bodega Head	SON	1	PaL
Sooty Shearwater	8/17-19/15	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	20000+	JaS, mob
Hawaiian Petrel	8/06/15	Pelagic trip	SON	1	DaN, mob first cty recd
Note: On the "Miss Anita" w/V. Orsini & Mollymawk Offshore Adventures posse. Photos taken.					
American Bittern	5/27-29/15	Bodega Bay/Eastshore Rd	SON	1	DaN, mob
Least Bittern	5/24-6/30/15	Campbell Cove St. Pk	SON	1	PeC, mob
White-faced Ibis	5/17/15	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	23	PeC
Swainson's Hawk	7/03/15	Sonoma Mountain Rd	SON	1	ROD
Lesser Yellowlegs	8/17/15	Carmody Road Ponds	SON	1	EuH
Willet	6/18/15	Bodega Harbor	SON	25	MaJ
Wandering Tattler	4/20-5/17/15	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	1	DoS, DaN, RiL
Wandering Tattler	7/16-17/15	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	1	ScC, DAH, BDP, mob
Wandering Tattler	7/23-25/15	S. Jetty Bodega Harbor	SON	1	EuH, DAH, mob
Wandering Tattler	8/15/15	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	1	DaS, mob
Red Knot	8/15-18/15	Doran Regional Park	SON	1	DaS, EuH, ROD, mob
Semipalmated Sandpiper	7/22/15	Schollenberger Park	SON	1	LoK, mob
Wilson's Phalarope	6/17-7/03/15	Schollenberger Park	SON	3-150	ScC, LeB, EuH, mob
Red-necked Phalarope	6/17/15	Schollenberger Park	SON	2	ScC
Red-necked Phalarope	8/13/15	Schollenberger Park	SON	1	LiH
Laughing Gull	7/22-26/15	S. Jetty/Bodega Harbor	SON	1	KiL, ROD, WiA, mob
Bonaparte's Gull	4/28/15	Bodega harbor	SON	96	JaS photos
Bonaparte's Gull	7/31/15	Salmon Creek Beach	SON	1	ScC
Heermann's Gull	6/12/15	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	3 ad	BDP, DAH
Common Tern	7/31/15	Salmon Creek Beach	SON	1	ScC
Common Tern	8/18/15	Doran Regional Park	SON	2	RAR, ROD
Barred Owl	5/14-6/04/15	Armstrng Woods St. Pk	SON	2 ad	Bi&CaG w/2 young
Blck-chnnd Humm'bird	4/21/15	Santa Rosa/Bennett V.	SON	1m	MoS, AIW, mob
Blck-chnnd Humm'bird	4/30-5/01/15	Sebastopol yard	SON	1m	ScC
Rufous Hummingbird	4/23/15	Sebastopol yard	SON	4m	ScC
Lewis' Woodpecker	4/22-23/15	D St. x San Antonio Rd	SON	1	DaW
Vermillion Flycatcher	5/20/15	Santa Rosa Creek	SON	1f	DoS (unconfirmed)
Willow Flycatcher	8/13/15	Sebastopol Comm. Ctr	SON	1	LiH, ScC
Willow Flycatcher	8/18/15	Owl Canyon	SON	1	ROD
Dusky Flycatcher	5/01/15	Pine Flat Road	SON	1	ScC, DaS
White-eyed Vireo	6/07-08/15	Campbell Cove St. Pk	SON	1m	DaN first cty record
Note: Dan Nelson took excellent photos. Heard and/or seen by many observers.					
Mountain Bluebird	6/11/15	Coleman Valley Road	SON	2	MaS, ScC nesting pr
Varied Thrush	5/25/15	Sea Ranch	SON	1	DiH (late)
Nashville Warbler	8/18/15	Owl Canyon	SON	1	RoS, DeF
Tennessee Warbler	6/09/15	Campbell Cove St. Pk	SON	1m	DaN, mob
Chestnut-sided Warbler	6/09-10/15	Bodega Marine Lab.	SON	1m	JaB, mob (photos)
Magnolia Warbler	6/13/15	Sea Ranch/Stengel Bch	SON	1m	Bi&PaL
Hermit Warbler	4/22/15	Pine Flat Road	SON	2	EuH
Palm Warbler	6/09/15	Campbell Cove St. Pk	SON	1	DaN, mob
Black and White Warbler	5/27/15	Bodega Bay/Eastshore Rd	SON	1	DaN, RAR
Black and White Warbler	6/01-02/15	Campbell Cove St. Pk	SON	1	DaN, AIW
American Redstart	6/09/15	Bodega Bay/Eastshore Rd	SON	1m	MuB
American Redstart	6/15/15	Bodega Marine Lab.	SON	1m	JaS
Yellow-throated Warbler	5/27/15	Bodega Bay/Eastshore Rd	SON	1	DaN first cty record
Note: Singing bird was recorded by Dan Nelson for 45 minutes, but unseen.					

Prothonotary Warbler	5/30/15	Campbell Cove St. Pk	SON	1m	MiH
Northern Waterthrush	5/29/15	Campbell Cove St. Pk	SON	1	DaN
MacGillivray's Warbler	8/19/15	Owl Canyon	SON	1	DeF
Yellow-breasted Chat	5/21-22/15	Willowside Rd x S.R Crk	SON	1	RAR, ROD, MaB
Clay-colored Sparrow	4/30/15	Petaluma yard	SON	1	ErP, DaN
Bell's Sparrow	5/18/15	Pine Flat Road	SON	1	DaH, mob
White-throated Sparrow	4/28/15	Sebastopol yard	SON	1m	ScC
White-throated Sparrow	7/04/15	East Petaluma yard	SON	1m	ShO late
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5/14/15	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	1f	PeC, ScC, DaN
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5/26/15	Owl Canyon	SON	1m	DaN, RAR
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5/27/15	Bodega Bay/Eastshore Rd	SON	1m	DaN, mob
Blue Grosbeak	7/18-26/15	Willow Creek Road	SON	1m	HeK, BiD, EuH, mob
Yellow-headed Blackbird	5/06/15	Willowside Rd X S.R. Crk	SON	1	RiS
Baltimore Oriole	5/26-28/15	Owl Canyon	SON	1m	RAR, mob
Baltimore Oriole	5/27/15	Bodega Bay/Eastshore Rd	SON	1f	DaN, mob

Observers for this period: Will Anderson, Mario Balitbit, Murray Berner, Janet Bosshard, Scott Carey, Peter Colasanti, Bill Doyle, Chris Dunford, Dea Freid, Bill & Carolee Grummer, David Hamilton, Mike Heffernon, Diane Hichwa, David A. Hofmann, Lisa Hug, Eugene Hunn, Marilyn Jones, Logan Kahle, Helen Kochenderfer, Paul Lehman, Bill & Paget Lenarz, Kirsten Lindquist, Dan Nelson, Brook & Orion O'Connor, Rob O'Donnell, Sherri Oster, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Ervand Peterson, Don Reinberg, Ruth Ann Rudesill, Monica Schwalbenberg-Pena, Doug Shaw, Dave Shuford, Ron Storey, Richard Stradford, Margaret Strubel, Dave Weber, Alan Wight, David Wimpfheimer

The compiler apologizes and takes full responsibility for omissions or errors regarding this list.

Pishing with Parmeter~ IDA CLAYTON ROAD

One of our favorite birding trips in the 60's and 70's was to Ida Clayton Road. At that time there were no vineyards, no wineries, and very few homes along the road. We usually went in May when the bird songs were at their peak.

We began in the open woodland at the bottom of the hill, just off Hwy. 128. Oak, fir, and pepperwood were the dominant trees. The birds usually recorded here included; Western Wood Pewee, Western Flycatcher (Pacific Slope), Olive-sided Flycatcher, Chipping Sparrow, Western Tanager, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Hutton's Vireo. A couple of hundred yards up there is a pond on the north side of the road which had Coot, Pied-billed Grebe, and generally a duck species or two.

Further up, in the chaparral, we would find Bewick's Wren, Rock Wren, and Sage Sparrow (Bell's). On one occasion we found a nest with 4 eggs of the latter species. The male was singing regularly at the site. Occasionally, while walking in the brushy growth, a Poorwill would be flushed. Western Kingbirds were in the valley below. For a few years, Black-throated Sparrows were in this area.

A bit farther up the road an area of deciduous woodland would reward us with Black-throated Gray Warbler, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Lazuli Bunting, Northern Flicker, and Hairy Woodpecker. Rich Bertoli found a Cooper's Hawk nest here which we visited several times during the season (see [Birds of Sonoma County](#)).

Higher woodland up a bit more: Cassin's Vireo, Pygmy Owl (called in on one occasion, with wonderful views), Black-headed Grosbeak, and Pileated Woodpecker. Near this spot is a nice stand of Fawn Lily (*Erythronium heleni*).

A small stream crosses the road near the top; this is where we always had lunch. A MacGillivray's Warbler nested along this stream and would serenade us during lunch. Black-headed Grosbeaks were common here, as was Western Tanager. Warbling Vireos sang. Often at lunch 4 migrating warbler species would be singing: Yellow-rumped, Nashville, Townsend's, and Hermit, as well as Orange-crowned and Wilson's. Often we returned in June to check if the Nashville Warblers might be nesting, but never found them. Nearby, a look up at Goat's Roost Rock would show White-throated Swift. Wonderful days afield!!

Regular attenders: Gordon Bolander (mentored us all in bird identification), Dr. John Arnold, Dr. Ross Bean, Jack Guggolz, Ann Brockman, Betty Burrige, Deyea Harper, Dan and Winnie Nelson (Dan was already an excellent birder), John Parmeter (also an excellent birder), Natalie Mestichin, and myself. **Mike~**

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 Ave, Santa Rosa California. Dues are \$20 per individual or family, and \$5 per student for a one-year membership. Send dues to RROS Treas. Don Howard, 979 Hogwarts Circle, Petaluma CA 94954.

RROS Officers

President – Ruth Rudesill	POB 371 Kenwood, CA 95452	ruthier@sonic.net	833-6026
Vice Pres - Terry Haag	1340 Big Plum Dr., Sebastopol 95472	teresitahaag@comcast.net	823-8527
Secretary – Rita Bevans	237 Deanna Pl. Windsor, Ca. 95492	ritanbill@comcast.net	
	484-3704		
Treasurer - Don Howard	979 Hogwarts Circle, Petaluma 94954	binkybunji2@comcast.net	637-0868

Committee Chairs

Field Trips – Gene Hunn,	204 Fair Ave., Petaluma, 94954	enhunn323@comcast.net	981-7301
Observations- David Hofmann	2021 Pioneer Wy #47 Santa Rosa 95403	nnamfoh@comcast.net	546-0325
Christmas Count – Bill Doyle	1966 Belmont Ct., SRosa, 95404	shortbill@comcast.net	483-8773
Kite Tales - - Bill Doyle	1966 Belmont Ct., SRosa, 95404	shortbill@comcast.net	483-8773

Kite Tales Deadlines: Submit observations to David Hofmann, all other items to Bill Doyle by the 20th of the month.

KITE TALES

**979 Hogwarts Circle
Petaluma CA 9954**

