



# Kite Tales

Volume 51 Number 6

February 2016



*Snowy Plover, Doran Beach, Will German*

**RROS General Meeting,  
First United Methodist Church  
1551 Montgomery Ave., Santa Rosa, CA  
February 10, 2016, 7:00 pm**

**Monthly Meeting, February 10, 2016: Raptor Identification and Location.** Larry Broderick, of the West County Hawkwatch Raptor Study Group, will share his knowledge of raptors. Larry has 25 years of experience studying and advocating for raptors. He will sharpen our skills in raptor identification, and will also speak about the best places and times to locate raptors in this area.

**Save the date: March 9, 2016:** Diane and Bryant Hichwa will present "Ireland - Seasonal Birding, Pubs and Traditional Music."

**DINNER BEFORE MEETING:** Join us at 5:30 p.m., at **Mary's Pizza Shack**, 535 Summerfield Rd., Santa Rosa, across from Howarth Park. From Hwy. 101 take Hwy. 12 east. Turn left on Farmer's Ln., right on Montgomery Dr. and right on Summerfield Rd. Mary's will be on your right. They do not accept reservations for groups smaller than 15, so when you arrive just ask to be seated with the RROS birders' group in the back room.

**FIELD TRIPS – February 13, 2016, Saturday: Wintering Raptors and Waterfowl of the Central Valley:** (Leader TBA), 8:00am - 4:00pm. The open agricultural lands of the Central Valley provide excellent foraging habitat for scores of wintering raptors, while the wetlands of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area are the winter home for thousands of waterfowl, including ducks, geese, swans and many shorebirds. This all-day field trip will visit several local habitats in search of wintering raptors. With some luck, we may encounter a Ferruginous or Rough-legged Hawk. The uncommon Prairie Falcon and Merlin are also possibilities. We expect to see a representative sampling of the wintering waterfowl, and a variety of shorebirds at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. If there is interest, and time permits, we could make the drive to Solano County in search of the elusive Mt. Plover, whose numbers have been in steady decline for the past decade. Meet at 8:00 am in south Davis, at the Nugget Center parking lot, behind Burger King (403 Mace Blvd, Davis), on the corner on Mace and Chiles Road. Bring a lunch/snacks and liquids; dress in layers. This is a good outing for both beginners and experienced birders alike. Heavy rain cancels.

**Saturday, February 27, 2016:** Las Gallinas wetland, Marin County, leader TBA. Meet at 8:30 AM at the treatment ponds parking lot at the east end of Smith Ranch Rd., north of San Raphael. We will finish by early afternoon. From the north, take the Smith Ranch Rd./Lucas Valley Rd. exit from 101, south of Novato. Take Smith Ranch Rd. west. Take the sharp left, just across the railroad tracks. Continue to parking lot. The ponds contain a variety of water birds and waders, and raptors often soar overhead. Rails are possible. Bring lunch. Heavy rain cancels.

**Friday-Sunday, March 4 - 6, 2016 - Carrizo Plain:** Leader is Peter Colasanti ([peter\\_colasanti@yahoo.com](mailto:peter_colasanti@yahoo.com); 763-2450). The Carrizo Plain is an Important Bird Area covering 281 square miles along the San Andreas Fault between the Central Valley and the coast in southeastern San Luis Obispo County. With a giant seasonal alkali lake, low rolling grasslands and arid scrub, it's a really big "microcosm" of the Central Valley as it was before conversion to agriculture. With over 10% of California's Sandhill Cranes, big country raptors, Mountain Plovers, Short and Long-eared Owls, Le Conte's Thrashers, Pronghorns and Tule Elk, there's a lot to see. It's one of the most carefully managed areas in California. Join the club for the weekend of March 5 and 6. We'll be spending Saturday the 5th in Carrizo Plain itself after rocketing down I-5 on Friday the 4th. Sunday I plan to return nearer the coast via either the Santa Maria River or Atascadero, with perhaps another layover night somewhere en route.

Participants are welcome to bird their way home with me or hustle back on I-5. I've put a reserve on 5 contiguous rooms at the Caprice Motel at 222 Kern Street in Taft for the nights of March 8 & 9. To reserve one, call (661) 765-2161. They can also be reached by fax at (661) 765-7911 or online at [www.capricemotel.com](http://www.capricemotel.com).

### **FIELD TRIP REPORTS:**

**11<sup>th</sup> Sonoma Valley Christmas Bird Count, Wednesday, December 30, 2015-** The weather person promised a clear, sunny day. Instead, we had a day-long drizzle with maximum temperatures of 47 degrees. Pre-dawn was perfect for owls however, as the drizzle held off until sunrise. We recorded 24 Great Horned Owls, 17 Western Screech-Owls, 7 Northern Pygmy-Owls, 4 Northern Saw-whet Owls, 3 Barn Owls and a Spotted, in addition to the three Burrowing Owls at Tolay Lake Regional Park.

Our species count of 171 for count day was one short of our all time record and well above average. With 7 additional species located during count week we tied the all-time record of 178 for the week. Our 116 field observers covered our nine major count areas thoroughly and spotted several outstanding rarities, including first count records for Common Loon, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Winter Wren (NOT Pacific Wren), and Wilson's Warbler. The Winter Wren is a super-rarity and was well documented by a recording of its distinctive call notes. A Napa Ridge team identified it (a Napa County first). Additional rarities included three unusual woodpecker species, a Lewis's Woodpecker and a Yellow-bellied and a Red-naped Sapsucker, the Yellow-bellied in the distinctive juvenile plumage. Both sapsuckers were photographed. Also noteworthy were 6 Vesper and 2 Grasshopper Sparrows, plus a Chipping Sparrow during count week (all photographed). A Palm Warbler and two groups of Red Crossbills were also noted, as well as a fly-over flock of Tundra Swans count week.

High count honors go to Red-winged Blackbirds (9209), American Robins (8598), European Starlings (6964), Dark-eyed Juncos (2803), Brewer's Blackbirds (2728), and Golden-crowned Sparrows (2366). **Gene Hunn, Compiler**

**The RROS gull field trip Saturday, January 9,** to Bodega Bay and the coast north to Jenner endured a bit of cold rain and wind but saw some nice birds.

Highlights include two adult Tundra Swans in Bodega Harbor at the base of Doran Spit, 45 Snowy Plovers on Doran Beach, a dozen Surf-birds on the rocks at Bodega Head, a surprising number -- at least 25 -- of late Heermann's Gulls (alternate plumaged adults and 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle immatures) at Salmon Creek beach and Jenner. No unusual gulls were noted, though there were good numbers of Thayer's and Herring Gulls at Salmon Creek and Jenner on top of the usual numbers of Mew, Western, California, and Glaucous-winged Gulls. A Peregrine strafed the gulls at Salmon Creek, and the pair of adult Bald Eagles on Jenny Island in the Russian River at Jenner was a treat.

Along the Petaluma-Valley Ford highway en route Bodega Bay there was an immature White-faced Ibis at the "Two Rock Pond" (just west of the Coast Guard Station junction) and an immature Snow Goose with Canadas beside the highway near Bloomfield. **Gene Hunn, Leader**

**New Members - CAROLYN METZ - Santa Rosa DENNIS & SUSAN FUJITA - Sebastopol  
JIM ROSSO - Sonoma**

**Observations: Dec. 21, 2015-Jan. 20, 2016****Compiled by David A. Hofmann**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Date/s</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Cty</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Observers</b>
White-fronted Goose	1/03/16	Stoney Point Road	SON	7	RoS photo
White-fronted Goose	1/04/16	Rainsville Road	SON	16	EuH
Snow Goose	12/22/15-1/09/16	Valley Ford Road	SON	1	ToB photo
Snow Goose	1/03/16	Stoney Point Road	SON	1	RoS
Cackling Goose	1/05/16	Lynch x Adobe Road	SON	1	EuH "aluetian"
Tundra Swan	1/02/16	Schollenberger Park	SON	5	AnL, mob
Tundra Swan	1/09/16	Doran Regional Park	SON	2	EuH, mob
Eurasian Wigeon	1/01/16	Doran Regional Park	SON	1m	RoS photo
Redhead	1/04/16	Hudemann Slough	SON	1m	EuH
Barrow's Goldeneye	1/15/16	Russian River	SON	1m	EuH
Hooded Merganser	12/31/15	Foothill Reg. Park	SON	1m	DoS
Hooded Merganser	1/04/16	Ramal Road pond	SON	4	EuH
Hooded Merganser	1/20/16	Shiloh Ranch Reg. Pk	SON	13	DoS
Red-necked Grebe	12/27/15	Bodega harbor	SON	4	RAR, mob
American Bittern	1/01/16	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	1	RoS photo
White-faced Ibis	12/22/15-1/19/16	Ellis Crk/Sholl.	SON	1-9	RoS, AnL, mob
White-faced Ibis	1/10/16	Valley Ford Road	SON	1	NoA, LoK, RoS
Ferruginous Hawk	12/20/15	Crane Crk Reg. Park	SON	4	KaM, GeM, LiM, RuL
Ferruginous Hawk	12/27/15	Hwy 116/David Ranch	SON	1	MiH, mob
Ferruginous Hawk	12/27/15	Jenner Headlands	SON	2	MiH, mob
Ferruginous Hawk	1/04/16	Rainsville Road	SON	1	EuH
Rough-legged Hawk	12/20/15	Crane Crk Reg. Park	SON	1	KaM, GeM, LiM, RuL
Prairie Falcon	12/20/15	Crane Crk Reg. Park	SON	1	KaM, GeM, LiM, RuL
Sandhill Crane	1/10-20/16	Delta Pond area	SON	1	DoK, EuH, mob
Black-legged Kittiwake	12/22/15	Doran Regional Pk	SON	1	DaN, ToE
Ancient Murrelet	12/20-31/15	Doran Regional Pk	SON	3	BDP, mob
Ancient Murrelet	1/02/16	Doran Regional Pk	SON	10	MaS, mob
Red-naped Sapsucker	12/22/15	Hembree Ln/Windsor	SON	1	DoS
Red-naped Sapsucker	12/26/15-1/16/16	Spring Lake RP	SON	1	RoW, LiH, mob
Townsend's Solitaire	12/30/16	Mt. Veeder summit	SON	1	SVCBC
Townsend's Solitaire	1/11/16	Annadel State Park	SON	1	EuH
Phainopepla	12/23/15	Pythian Rd/Oak Trl Cir.	SON	1	DaN
Phainopepla	1/14/16	Spring Lake Reg. Pk	SON	1	DoS
Cassin's Sparrow	1/08/16	Armstrong Woods Pk	SON	1	WiA
Palm Warbler	12/27/15	Doran Regional Park	SON	1	RAR, mob
Vesper Sparrow	12/26/15-1/10/16	Tolay Regional Park	SON	4	DaN, SuM, mob
Vesper Sparrow	1/04/16	Stoney Point Road	SON	1	DoS, BrO
Bullock's Oriole	12/26/15	Diekmann's Store	SON	1m	DaN, SuM
Red Crossbill	1/04/16	Spring Lake Reg. Pk	SON	10	ToB, mob
Evening Grosbeak	12/27/15	Duncan's Mill C.G.	SON	7	MiH, KaG, mob
Evening Grosbeak	1/11/16	Kenwood yard	SON	1f	RAR

**Observer/s for this period:** Will Anderson, Noah Arthur, Tony Briggs, Wendy Dandridge, Todd Esterla, Kate Gonnella, Mike Heffernon, Lisa Hug, Eugene Hunn, Andrew Larson, Ruth Lombard, Suzanne Medina, Kathy Mugele, Gerry Mugele, Lilly Mugele, Dan Nelson, Brook Oconnor, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Ruth Ann Rudesill, Doug Shaw, Mark Stephenson, Ron Storey, Robin Winning.

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



**FURTHER DONATIONS IN HONOR OF GARY HAAG:****BETTY BURRIDGE and MIKE NELLIGAN****DENNIS and SUSAN FUJITA****PISHING WITH PARMETER-**

In June of 1956 a medical school classmate and I decided to take a trip around the U.S. to look at possible internships. (The following year, after completing our 4<sup>th</sup> year of medical school, we were required to spend a year of clinical study before we could be licensed in CA.) Cities we visited were St. Louis, Washington D.C., Baltimore, New York, Boston, and Chicago. Coming home, we visited Yellowstone and Tetons National Parks.

In Yellowstone, I bought a thin book, Birds of Yellowstone National Park by Harold J. Broderick. Several days later, in the Tetons, we decided to hike up the Cascade Trail. My friend had a pair of binoculars, which I promptly borrowed. I had bird watched previously and had obtained the Bird Watching merit badge in the Boy Scouts but never before had I looked through binoculars. I could see details of the birds; marks and colors I had not been able to notice before! I decided to keep a day list (6/25/56) on this walk. Full day notes, in 2 blank pages at the back of the book, included: Mountain Chickadee, Chipping Sparrow, Pink-sided Junco (mearnsi), Brown Creeper (I found a nest behind a loose piece of bark and could hear the young. The adults were carrying food to the nest, and I watched for several minutes), Hairy Woodpecker (again, I located a nest and watched the activities for a short period), Western Tanager (a beautiful bird!), Western Wood Pewee, Calliope Hummingbird, Red-naped Sapsucker, Hermit Thrush, MacGillivray's Warbler, Mountain Bluebird, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Black-billed Magpie. By the end of the day I had recorded 27 species.

The first thing I did, when I returned home to Guerneville, was to buy a pair of 8x32 binocs. That summer truly opened up birding for me at Bodega Bay, Duncans Mills, Armstrong Woods State Preserve, the riparian areas along the Russian River, and many other local spots. Binoculars presented a new world and I was hooked! I remain hooked to this day. **Mike~**



**Young Ferruginous, by  
Rick LeBaudour**



**Mr. & Mrs. Bluebird, by  
Will German**

**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 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	<a href="mailto:ruthier@sonic.net">ruthier@sonic.net</a>	833-6026
Vice Pres - Terry Haag	1340 Big Plum Dr., Sebastopol 95472	<a href="mailto:teresitahaag@comcast.net">teresitahaag@comcast.net</a>	823-8527
Secretary – Rita Bevans	237 Deanna Pl. Windsor, Ca. 95492	<a href="mailto:ritanbill@comcast.net">ritanbill@comcast.net</a>	484-3704
Treasurer - Don Howard	979 Hogwarts Circle, Petaluma 94954	<a href="mailto:binkybunji2@comcast.net">binkybunji2@comcast.net</a>	637-0868

#### **Committee Chairs**

Field Trips – Gene Hunn,	204 Fair Ave., Petaluma, 94954	<a href="mailto:enhunn323@comcast.net">enhunn323@comcast.net</a>	981-7301
Observations- David Hofmann	2021 Pioneer Wy #47 Santa Rosa 95403	<a href="mailto:nnamfoh@comcast.net">nnamfoh@comcast.net</a>	546-0325
Christmas Bird Count – Bill Doyle	86 Westgate Circle, SRosa, 95401	<a href="mailto:shortbill@comcast.net">shortbill@comcast.net</a>	483-8773
Kite Tales - – Bill Doyle	86 Westgate Circle, SRosa, 95401	<a href="mailto:shortbill@comcast.net">shortbill@comcast.net</a>	483-8773
YAMS Coordinator – Lisa Hug,	Sebastopol	<a href="mailto:lisahug@sonic.net">lisahug@sonic.net</a>	535-9370

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

**KITE TALES**  
**979 Hogwarts Circle**  
**Petaluma CA 94954**

