

# Kite Tales



Redwood Region Ornithological Society

Volume 34 Number IX

May 2000

## Coming Attractions

### **May 11th, Thursday, 6:00 PM - General Meeting - Year End Potluck Laguna Waste Water Treatment Plant 4300 Llano Road, Santa Rosa**

Thanks to Bob Evans' suggestion we will be holding our usual spring potluck at our future monthly meeting place; the Laguna WWTP. The treatment plant is on Llano Road between Highway 12 and Highway 116, west of Santa Rosa and Rohnert Park. (See map, page 3.) The administration building includes a fine meeting room with a screen for slide shows, comfortable chairs, kitchen area with microwave, storage area, and rest rooms. Some outdoor tables and barbecues are adjacent to the meeting room. Any wine or beer should be consumed out of doors, however we will have hot coffee—a first for our potlucks. Be sure to bring your own plate & utensils in addition to your potluck dish.

We suggest that early arrivals check out the nature walk to the south of the Administration Bldg or go to the ponds across the street on the west side of Llano Rd. After a brief meeting, Bob Evans will lead us to Alpha Pond, a locked gate area, for a bird walk.

This meeting space has been offered to RRROS without charge. Now, without the extra funds from book sales (due to a lack of inventory), the meeting room at Sonoma State University, and the extra insurance required to meet there, has become too costly for our non-profit organization.

### **May 20th, Saturday, 7:30 8:00 AM Field Trip Ida Clayton Road**

Ida Clayton Road climbs Northeast from the floor of Knight's Valley, through a variety of habitats and skirts the Northern shoulder of Mount Saint Helena. This area has a nice variety of spring birds and some great views of the mountain. Meet at the intersection of Ida Clayton Road and Highway 128 in Knight's Valley. There have even been recent rumors of Greater Roadrunner along this road. Bring binoculars, field guides, lunch, and water. Leader is Mike Parmeter. Call Mike at 255-6757 if you have any questions.

### **June 9th, Friday - Monday June 12th RRROS Field Trip to Kern River Preserve and Surrounding Area.**

There are still a few spots left on this field trip. Please see the bottom of page 5 of this issue of *KiteTales* for details or call me for information (or to sign up). Alan Wight (707) 763-8572

### **August 20th, Sunday - Observations Deadline**

The 20th is our deadline for Kite Tales observations. Please forward sightings to Ned Wynn 129-B Powell Ave. Healdsburg, Ca 95448 707 431-8412 or via email: [ekwynn@pon.net](mailto:ekwynn@pon.net)

### **August 25th, Friday - Kite Tales Deadline**

Send announcements, articles, complaints, trivia, errata, letters to the editor and such to Gerry Mugele PO Box 813 Glen Ellen, Ca 95442 or via email: [mewgull@ix.netcom.com](mailto:mewgull@ix.netcom.com)



**The Prez Sez:****Thanks**

My thanks to Betty Groce for planning interesting programs for our meetings. And thanks for showing that the Vice-President is not a silent office, since she took over for me while I was away during three meetings this term (including this spring pot-luck).

Thanks to Mike Parmeter for recording our minutes, to Mike Nelligan, Treasurer, for always reading numbers that were in the black, to Alan Wight for organizing our field trips, to Ned Wynn for the list of observations that were sent to him (plus--thanks to all of you for sending your observations to Ned), to Barbara Gumtow (with help from Avis Anderson) for toting the coffee & tea paraphernalia to every meeting and for reminding the cookie bringers that it was their turn, to Doug Ellis for again counting up and submitting the Christmas Count information, to Ted Eliot for continuing the "Good Birding Spots" column, and to Gerry Mugele for putting together our *Kite Tales*. To Gerry, a special thank you, your job as *Kite Tales* editor is the glue that joins us together as an organization and keeps us informed of upcoming meetings and field trips with a little humor inserted to make us smile.

Congratulations to all the new and renewing officers--you will have a great year at the new meeting place.  
*Deyea Harper*

**Madrone Audubon & RROS**

[audubon.sonoma.net](http://audubon.sonoma.net) is the internet address (URL) of Madrone Audubon Society's award winning website. Jeff Holtzman, Webmaster and RROS member, is to be congratulated for building and maintaining this outstanding source for educating, informing and entertaining people of all ages about the natural world.

Especially remarkable is the PeeWee Audubon page for children of all ages. All parents and teachers need to know of this extensive and fascinating resource.

Jeff has expressed interest in including the RROS Good Birding Spot articles included in the

Birding Northern California page of 'his' website. With the cooperation of the Kite Tales Staff and all the authors, these excellent contributions from RROS will soon be appearing in Madrone's Website.

Be sure to look up this wonderful resource and spread the word."  
*Betty Burridge*

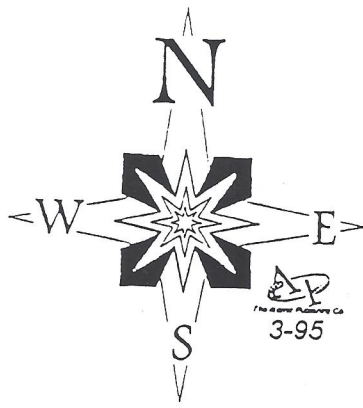
**Field Trip Report****Mitchell Canyon - Mount Diablo**

April 15, 2000 Alan Wight, leader

Eight people were rewarded with a nice selection of birds at this lovely spot. Calliope Hummingbirds were as numerous as they have ever been on our field trips here, with at least ten males seen. Their very high-pitched display sounds were heard several times. Other highlights included two calling Hammond's Flycatchers, a Rufous Hummingbird, a Nashville Warbler, a Golden Eagle, and a distant singing Sage Sparrow.

Participants were Linda Allen, Terry Babineaux, Rick Lebaudour, Richard Merriss, Mike Parmeter, Carole Sunlight, Alan Wight, and Jon Winter.

Birds observed: Turkey Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, American Kestrel, California Quail, Rock Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Calliope Hummingbird, Rufous Hummingbird, Acorn Woodpecker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Hammond's Flycatcher, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Steller's Jay, Western Scrub-Jay, Oak Titmouse, Bushtit, White-breasted Nuthatch, Bewick's Wren, House Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Western Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Wrentit, California Thrasher, European Starling, Cassin's Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Western Tanager, Lazuli Bunting, Spotted Towhee, California Towhee, Sage Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Brown-headed Cowbird, Purple Finch, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, American Goldfinch.  
*Alan Wight*



W. College Ave

**MSCS**  
69 Stony Circle

Santa Rosa

Irwin Lane

Fulton Road

Sebastopol Hwy

Occidental Road

 **KELLY WETLANDS**  
5344 Occidental Road



Stony Point Road



Sebastopol



Brown Farm



Alpha Farm

Llano Road

Todd Road

Redwood Hwy



Gravenstein Hwy

Rohnert Park

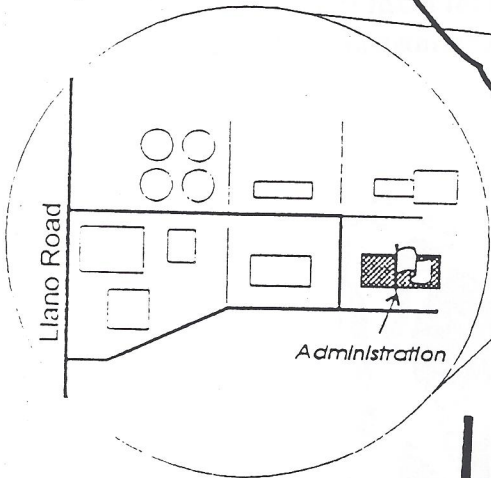
To San Francisco

Cotati

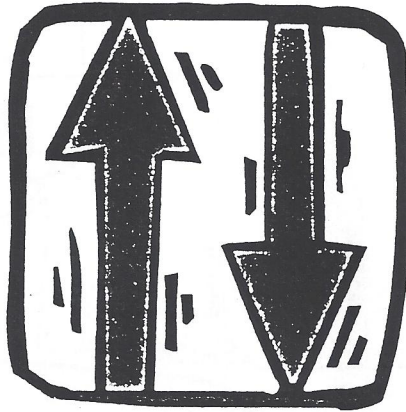
**LAGUNA WWTP**  
4300 Llano Road  
Santa Rosa, CA 95407

Phone (707) 543-3350

Fax (707) 543-3399





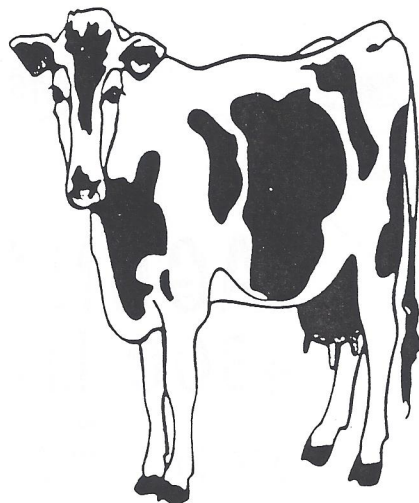


## YOU CAN GET HERE FROM THERE

Heading north on Highway 101 - As you approach the town of Cotati, take the Hwy 116/Gravenstein Hwy exit. At the signal turn left on to Hwy 116. Approximately 4 ½ miles later you'll see two 'log cabin' looking buildings (Llano House Antiques). Just beyond is Llano Road. Turn right and approximately ½ mile on the right is the treatment plant. After you pass through the main gate follow signage to the Administration Building - that's where the flag pole is.

Heading south on Highway 101 - Midway through Santa Rosa take the Hwy 12 turnoff. Go west towards Sebastopol. Approximately 4 ½ miles later is Llano Road. Turn left on to Llano Road and proceed approximately 3 ½ miles. The treatment plant is on the left side. After you pass through the main gate follow signage to the Administration Building - that's where the flag pole is.

YCGHFT/99



**Observations**

<u>Species</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Laysan Albatross	1	4/1	Point Arena Cove	MEN	GS	
Cooper's Hawk	1	3/8	Sonoma Mtn Property	SON	DG	juv.
" "	1	3/11	" " "	SON	DG	ad.
Rough-legged Hawk	1	3/21	Grizzly Island	SOL	TE	
Golden Eagle	1	3/24	Sonoma Mtn	SON	TE	
Merlin	1	4/15	Viansa Wetlands	SON	JB, GM	late
Peregrine Falcon	1	3/31	Annadel SP	SON	KC	
Wild Turkey	3	3/15	Yard, Post St., Petaluma	SON	DN, TCN	
✓ Long-billed Curlew	30	3/21	Sanford & Occidental Rds	SON	CS	
✓ " " "	50	3/26	Sanford & Occidental Rds	SON	CS	
Caspian Tern	2	3/26	Lakeville - Petaluma Riv	SON	DN	
" "	15	4/8	Rodeo	COC	DN	
" "	2	4/13	Matanzas Creek Winery	SON	KF	
✓ Rufous Hummingbird	1	3/14	Larkfield	SON	GR	
✓ " "	1	3/24	yard, near Willowside Rd.	SON	CS	
✓ Western Kingbird	1	4/8	Lakeville Hwy	SON	DN	1st arrival
✓ Cassin's Vireo	1	3/10	Owl Canyon	SON	DN	
N. Rough-wing Swallow	2	4/21	Healdsburg (in town)	SON	EKW	
Barn Swallow	3	3/18	Seavey Rd,	SON	DN	
Orange-crownd Warbler	many	3/31	Geysers Rd	SON	AW, EKW	
Rufous-crownd Sparrow	1	3/31	Geysers Rd.	SON	AW, EKW	
Lark Sparrow	2	3/27	San Antonio Rd.	SON	DN	
✓ Black-headed Grosbeak	1+	4/11	59 Sylvia Dr. Cazadero	SON	DB	arrival
✓ Lawrence's Goldfinch	1	4/2	Doran Park	SON	BS, SB, fide NC	

**Observers:** Dennis Beall, Susan Bell, John Burgess, Tyler Cannon-Nelson, Nancy Conzett, Kathy Francone, Donna Gleckler, Gerald Mugele, Dan Nelson, Kimberly Copley, Ted Eliot, Gail Roper, Claire Shurvinton, Grace Steurer, Barbara Stover, Alan Wight, Ned Wynn (EKW)

**RROS Fieldtrip to Kern River Preserve Friday, June 9 - Monday, June 12**

Join us for a long weekend of birding at the Kern River Preserve and surrounding area. Kern River Preserve is located about an hour east of Bakersfield at the south end of the Sierra Nevada. We will be led by Bob Barnes, State Director of Bird Conservation & Kern Valley Outreach for Audubon California. Bob is very knowledgeable about the birds and birding locations in this area.

We will visit the Kern River Preserve (extensive riparian habitat) as well as surrounding mountain and desert areas. Bird possibilities include Yellow-billed Cuckoo (hopefully just arriving on their breeding grounds at the time of our visit), Summer Tanager, Willow Flycatcher, Indigo Bunting, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Tricolored Blackbird, Scott's Oriole, Cactus Wren, and Ladder-backed Woodpecker. Participants in this fieldtrip may come for all four days, or for only a subset of the four days, as desired. We will visit Kern River Preserve on Saturday and/or Sunday. The cost of the trip is membership in Audubon-California's Friends of the Kern River Preserve (\$20 per participant minimum). Additionally, Kern River Preserve T-shirts designed by Keith Hansen will be on sale (\$12) for those who are interested.

There are a number of motels and inns near the Kern River Preserve in Kernville and Wofford Heights. I have arranged for a group discount at the Barewood Motel in Wofford Heights. Double occupancy rate for a room is \$75 per night (minus the group discount which is to be determined). The phone number is (760) 376-1910. Ask for Lori or Mercedes and mention Redwood Region Ornithological Society (or RROS) for the group discount. This fieldtrip will be limited to a maximum of 25 participants in order to preserve the quality of the trip. Please call me to sign up

-- Alan Wight 707 763-8572



Redwood Region Ornithological Society was organized in 1962 "to encourage the study and conservation of birds, other wildlife, and their natural habitat." Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month, September through May. Regular general meetings (October through April) are held at 7:30 PM at the Laguna Waste Water Treatment Plant 4300 Llano Road, Santa Rosa, California. **NOTE:** Change pending: see details on page one. Dues are \$15 per family, \$8 per individual, or \$3 per student for one year membership. Send dues to the treasurer shown below.

**1999 - 2000 Officers:**

**President:** Deyea Harper, 2310 Northwood Dr., Santa Rosa CA 95404 -2245 707 542-1542  
E-Mail: JHarperTrustee@compuserve.com

**Vice President:** Betty Groce, 411 Trail Ridge Ct. , Santa Rosa CA 95409-6482 707 539-8664  
E-Mail: blgroce @ Prodigy.net

**Secretary:** Benjamin D. Parmeter, 2500 Emerson St., Napa CA 94558-4611 707 255-6757

**Treasurer:** Mike Nelligan, 124 Wikiup Drive, Santa Rosa CA 95403-7700 707 576-1475  
E-Mail: bandm@monitor.net

**1999 - 2000 Chairs:**

**Field Trips:** Alan Wight, 19 Wooddale Dr., Petaluma CA 94952 707 763-8572  
E-Mail: shwand@sonic.net

**Observations:** Ned Wynn, 129-B Powell Ave., Healdsburg CA 95448-3413 707 431-8412  
E-Mail: ekwynn@pon.net

**Social:** Barbara Gumtow, 7915 Bella Vista Dr., Sebastopol CA 95472-2701 707 823-7869

**Christmas Count:** Doug Ellis, PO Box 776, Kenwood CA 95452-0776

**Good Birding Spots:** Ted Eliot, 5850 Grove St., Sonoma CA 95476-6095 707 935-3410  
E-Mail: patted@sonic.net

**Kite Tales:** Gerry Mugele, PO Box 813, Glen Ellen, Ca 95442-0813 707 938-2134  
E-Mail: mewgull@ix.netcom.com

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