

# Kite



# Tales

Redwood Region Ornithological Society

Volume 36 Number VIII

April 2002

## Coming Attractions

**April 11<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, 7:30 PM - General Meeting**

**Administration Building, Laguna Waste Water Treatment Plant - 4300 Llano Road, Santa Rosa**

**Members' Slide Night and Annual Election of Officers**

The April meeting will feature a showing of slides by members, all of whom are urged to bring slides which they would like to show their fellow birders.

**April 20<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, 7:30/9:00 AM - RROS Field Trip**

**Mitchell Canyon, Contra Costa County**

This beautiful canyon on the slopes of Mt. Diablo is a wonderful place to observe newly-arrived spring migrants. It's a magnet for less common migrating birds such as Hammond's Flycatcher, Calliope Hummingbird, Nashville Warbler, and Hermit Warbler. Along with the birds come a nice variety of butterflies, reptiles, and wildflowers. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Petaluma Park-and-Ride for carpooling or meet at the Mitchell Canyon parking lot at 9:00 a.m. The Petaluma Park-and-Ride is located on Lakeville Highway in Petaluma just west of US101. To get to Mitchell Canyon, take Highway 680 south to Walnut Creek. Take the Ygnacio Valley Road exit east. Once on Ygnacio Valley Road, drive east 7.7 miles and turn south on Clayton Road. Drive one mile and turn right onto Mitchell Canyon Road. Follow this road for 1.6 miles to the end. Bring binoculars, hiking shoes, water, and a lunch. We will walk about three miles at a leisurely pace. Leader is Alan Wight. Please call Alan (weekdays 7-9 PM or weekends any time) at 763-8572 if you plan to meet the group at Mitchell Canyon or if you have any questions.

**May 9<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, 6:00 PM, Year End Potluck Meeting**

**Sugar Loaf Ridge State Park, Adobe Canyon Road**

Once again we're ending the RROS with a potluck feast and meeting. We will meet at the picnic area across from the parking lot shortly beyond the entrance kiosk. (The picnic area at the astronomical observatory is not available.) Picnic tables are available. Bring a potluck dish, your plate, cup, utensils. Also bring some warm clothes, as it will likely get chilly as the evening wears on. We will share our dinners and birds in the area, have our meeting and then take a walk along the level Meadow Trail at dusk in search of owls and poor-wills. Last year, a poor-will was on the trail. There is a restroom near the picnic area. The State Park has assured us that no fees will be charged us. If there is a ranger at the kiosk, tell her/him that Supervising Ranger Gregg Hayes so assured RROS Vice-President Ted Eliot.

*(Continued)*

**Coming Attractions (continued)****May 18<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, 8:00 am  
RROS Fieldtrip to Pine Flat Road**

We'll search for chaparral, grassland, and woodland birds along the length of Pine Flat Road. If Pine Flat Road is closed due to pipeline work, we will go up Geysers Road instead. Meet at the first bridge on Pine Flat Road at 8:00 am. Bring binoculars, hiking shoes, water, and a lunch. Leader is Alan Wight. Please call Alan (weekdays 7-9 pm or weekends any time) at 763-8572 if you have any questions.

**A Warm Welcome**

Welcome new members: Richard Feather Anderson, Santa Rosa; Donald G. McCuller, Santa Rosa; Donald K Howard, Jr., Petaluma. Also welcome to returning member: Phyllis Schmitt, Santa Rosa.

**ANN RUDESILL**

Long time RROS member and dear friend of every wild creature, Ann Rudesill died peacefully Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, with her three children at her bedside. Ann never claimed to be a hardcore birder, however her life list numbered an impressive 424 birds.

Ann grew up in northern Michigan, studied journalism at the University of Michigan, and sincerely loved sports and all of nature. Her birding and organizational talents were important to our Christmas Bird Counts, and she was a major consultant and contributor to the publication of the Sonoma County Breeding Bird Atlas. We will miss her quiet presence and extend our sincere sympathy to her daughter, Ruth, and the rest of her family.

A memorial service will be held Wed., April 3 at 11:00, Holy Spirit Church, 1244 St. Francis Rd., Santa Rosa.

**Field Trip Reports****Shollenberger Park and Port Sonoma Field Trip, March 9, 2002**

Highlights at Shollenberger Park were two male Eurasian Wigeons, several pairs of Blue-winged Teal, an American Bittern, and four species of swallows, including Tree, Violet-green, Northern Rough-winged, and Barn. At Port Sonoma, we saw a single male Barrow's Goldeneye in the Petaluma River. While driving back up Lakeville Highway, we saw two Golden Eagles. The field trip participants were Mel Davison, Nancy Davison, Lew Edmondson, Marilyn Edmondson, Ted Eliot, Betty Groce, Lisa Hug, Richard Hurley, Louise Johnston, Tony Kroha, Mike Parmeter, Rhio Reigh, and Alan Wight.

Birds observed: Pied-billed Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Clark's Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, American Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Canada Goose, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, Eurasian Wigeon, American Wigeon, Canvasback, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Surf Scoter, Common Goldeneye, Barrow's Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, White-tailed Kite, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, American Kestrel, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Black-bellied Plover, Killdeer, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Greater Yellowlegs, Willet, Long-billed Curlew, Marbled Godwit, Least Sandpiper, Mew Gull, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, Western Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Northern Flicker, Black Phoebe, Homed Lark, Tree Swallow, Violet-green Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Western Scrub-Jay, American Crow, Marsh Wren, Northern Mockingbird, American Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Spotted Towhee, California Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

Alan Wight

## PLACES TO BIRD

### JENNER

Located at the mouth of the Russian River, Jenner is another fine birding spot. Large numbers of birds winter here, including three species of loons, six grebes, and three cormorants. Marbled Murrelet can often be seen between the mouth of the river and Goat Rock. Common Merganser is regular throughout the year. Brown Pelican and Heermann's Gull are common in fall. In winter, Black-legged Kittiwake usually occurs, and all three species of scoters are easily sighted near shore.

Many species of raptors have been recorded in the Jenner area, including Red-tailed, Rough-legged and Ferruginous Hawks, Golden Eagle, Merlin and Peregrine Falcon. Osprey is common in summer. Many species of shorebirds use the beaches and Penny Island for feeding and resting.

Don't overlook the ponds at the junction of State Highways 116 and 1. Common Moorhen has nested annually in these ponds for several years. Virginia Rail is a regular resident. Several rarities have been found here, such as Blue-winged Teal, Baird's Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, and Bobolink. A Fork-tailed Flycatcher was found at this spot in early September 1992.

### CAZADERO

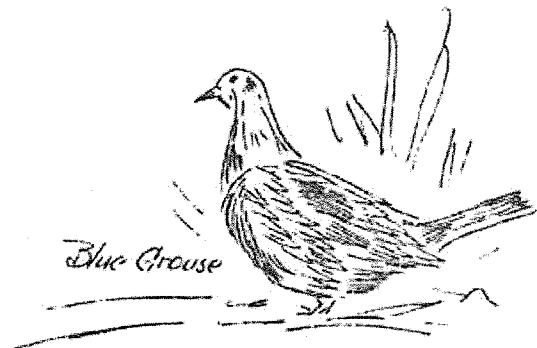
To reach Cazadero, turn north onto Austin Creek Road from State Highway 116 where it crosses Austin Creek, about 5.5 miles east of Jenner. The lower portion of Austin Creek, before you reach Cazadero, has some nice stands of riparian growth. In the summer look in this streamside growth for Yellow Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, and Yellow-breasted Chat. The small tributary streams of Kidd Creek and East Austin Creek are excellent places to search for an American Dipper. Dipper can also be seen in that portion of Austin Creek north of Cazadero. Also in the summer months, look for Vaux's Swift flying about the tops of any stand of redwood tress, but especially at Elim Grove, just south of Cazadero. On the drier hillsides and above

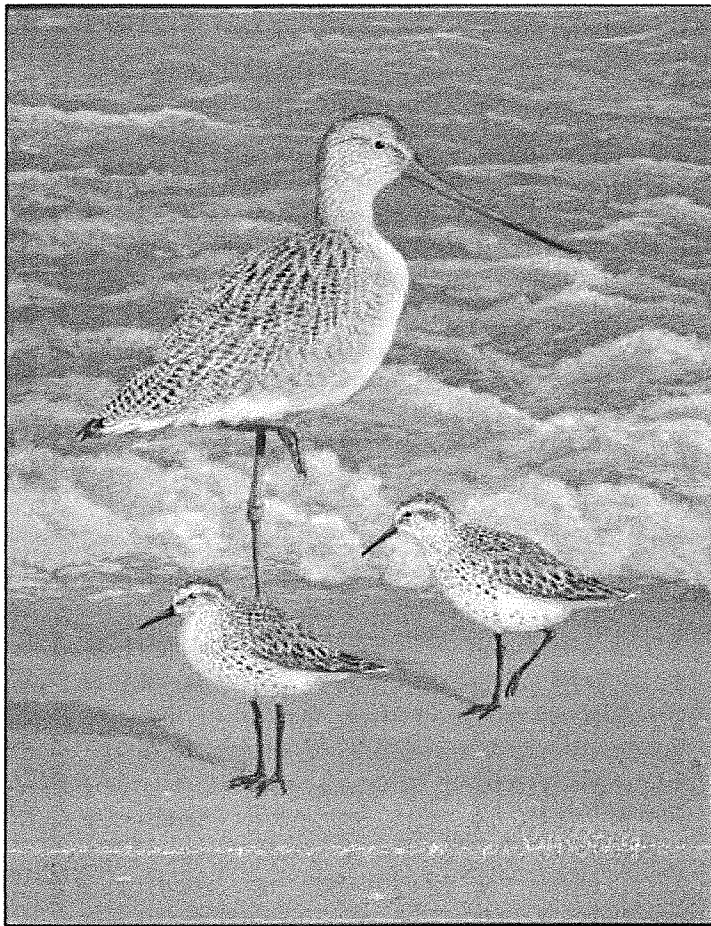
the stream, watch for Mountain Quail, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Black-throated Gray Warbler, and Lazuli Bunting. The Fort Ross Road, from Cazadero to Fort Ross, is a scenic drive with excellent birding along the way, but the road is not always easy driving. It is best to inquire locally about road conditions, especially in winter, if you plan to take this trip.

### KING RIDGE ROAD

This road runs north of Cazadero along Austin Creek for a few miles, then climbs and runs along the top of the ridge until it joins Tin Barn Road, which eventually joins Skaggs Springs-Stewart's Point Road. Excellent views of the countryside are obtained on the drive along the top of the ridge. Along the creek the habitat is riparian and, back from the creek, it becomes broadleaf/evergreen forest. Atop the ridge, the area is mainly open grassland. The entire route offers good birding. Birds which are found (often just heard) fairly regularly include: Common Merganser, Golden Eagle, Blue Grouse, Mountain Quail, Spotted Sandpiper, Band-tailed Pigeon, Pygmy Owl, Vaux's Swift, Pileated Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Purple Martin, Red-breasted Nuthatch, American Dipper, Hermit Warbler, and Lark Sparrow. The Blue Grouse are more easily heard than seen. During the spring, they "boom" from the tall Douglas fir clumps near the top of the ridge.

*Excerpted, with permission, from Birds of Sonoma County California, 2001, Parmeter and Bolander*





## Godwit Days

April 19-21, 2002

There is something for everyone at Godwit Days 2002. With 80 fieldtrips, workshops and seminars serious birders, international eco-tourists, and casual, or beginning birders have an incredible menu of birding experiences to choose from. All events are led by trained and knowledgeable guides who will assist you with sightings, answer questions about the topic of the trip and guide you through special remote areas for extraordinary birding.

In addition to an extensive list of trips and workshops, the organizers have put together six weekend packages ranging from the Beginning Birders Package to ones for Intermediate and Advanced Birders. Other packages focus on the County, the West and Outdoor Activities. Among the many exhibitors at the Art Show and Bird Fair will be Eagle Optics.

Detailed information is available on their web site [www.godwitdays.com](http://www.godwitdays.com). Godwit Days registration booklets are available by calling the Arcata MainStreet office at (707) 822-4500, by fax at (707) 822-4555 or [info@godwitdays.com](mailto:info@godwitdays.com).

### Kite Tales Deadlines

#### April 20<sup>th</sup>, Observations Deadline

Please submit sightings to:  
Ned Wynn, 129-B Powell Ave., Healdsburg, CA 95448,  
via email: [ekwynn@pon.net](mailto:ekwynn@pon.net), or call him after 8:00 AM and  
before 8:00 PM at (707) 431-8412.

#### April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Submissions Deadline

Send announcements, articles, complaints, trivia, errata  
and letters to the editor to:  
Linda Allen, PO Box 548, Kenwood, CA 95452.

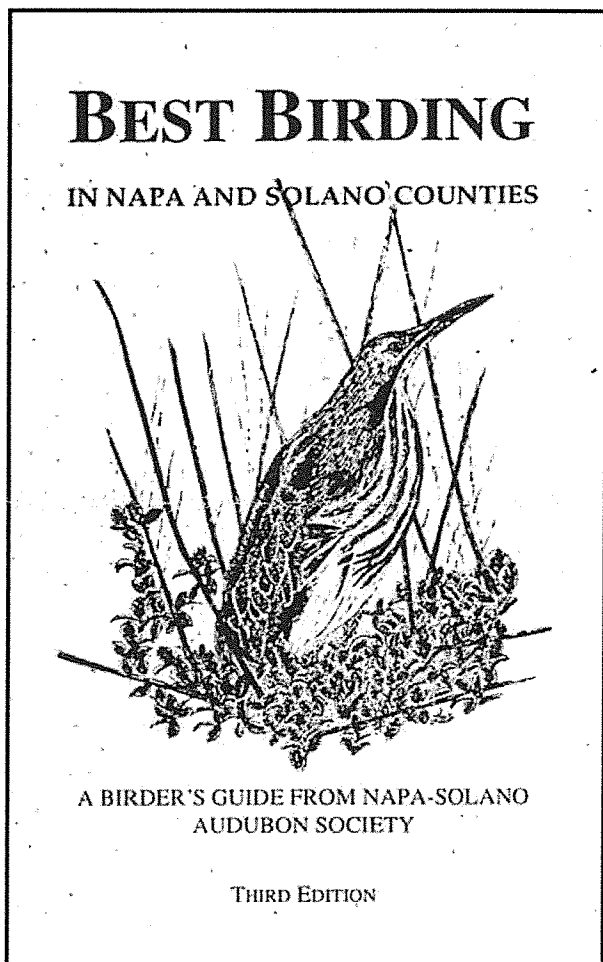
### OBSERVATIONS

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
Golden Eagle	1	22-Feb	Petaluma River	SON	BG	Immature
✓ White Pelicans	24	22-Feb	Sebastopol	SON	BG	
✓ *Yellow-billed Magpie		17-Mar	Glen Ellen	SON	*Amy	10 <sup>th</sup> record for county
Golden Eagle	1	23-Feb	I Street, Petaluma	SON	AW	Immature
✓ Pygmy Nuthatch	2-3	3-Mar	Salmon Creek Road	SON	AW	
✓ Greater White-fronted Goose	1	10-Mar	Adobe Rd at Stage Gulch Rd	SON	AW	
✓ American White Pelican	2	10-Mar	Adobe Rd at Stage Gulch Rd	SON	AW	
White-throated Swift	1	14-Mar	US101 @ Petaluma River bridge	SON	AW	
✓ BlackRail	1	25-Feb	Shollenberger	SON	TE	Heard only

Observers: Ted Eliot, Dick Ashford, Alan Wight

## New Bird Finding Guide

An updated edition of the definitive guide to birding our two neighboring counties on the east has recently been published. A collaborative effort by Napa-Solano Audubon Society, accounts are written by the people who know it best – the locals.



Best Birding can be mail ordered. Make a check payable to NSAS (Napa-Solano Audubon Society) for \$12.00. This includes shipping and handling. Send your request to Uzelle Williams, 2172 Rockville Road, Suisun, CA 94585.

## FOR SALE

"*Birds of the Pacific States*" by Ralph Hoffmann, 1927, (reprinted in 1955) is a cherished volume in many birding libraries not only for its thorough and accurate text, but also for Hoffmann's lyrical writing style, and the magnificent illustrations by Major Allan Brooks.

A rebound and repaired original (1927) copy of this book is being offered for sale by the estate of the owner. The book will be available for view at the April 11th meeting or contact Betty Burrige -(707) 527-0225 or [Betty@monitor.net](mailto:Betty@monitor.net).

## Heron Days in April

The eighth annual celebration of Heron Days is April 14-15 at Clear Lake. Pontoon boat rides to view the Great Blue Heron rookery on Slater Island will be featured. There are slide shows, lectures, nature walks, educational programs and information booths. Heron Days is presented by Redbud Audubon Society and Lake County Land Trust. More information may be obtained by calling Lake County Visitor Information at (800) 525-8305 or visiting the website: [www.lakecounty.com](http://www.lakecounty.com).

## REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

### 2001-2002 Officers

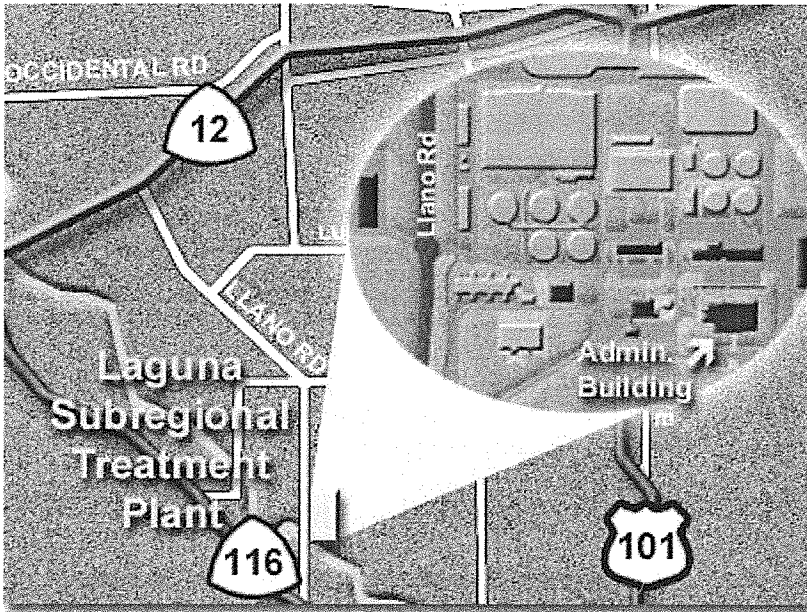
#### Board of Directors

<b>President</b>	8 Pine Tree Circle	795-7547
Ken Wilson	Cotati, CA 94931	<a href="mailto:talontours@yahoo.com">talontours@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Vice-President</b>	5850 Grove Street	935-3410
Ted Eliot	Sonoma CA 95476-6095	<a href="mailto:patted@sonic.net">patted@sonic.net</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	6332 Stone Bridge Road	538-9194
Linda Allen	Santa Rosa CA 95409	<a href="mailto:lsallen@sonic.net">lsallen@sonic.net</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	1653 Arroyo Sierra Way	527-0225
Betty Burrige	Santa Rosa CA 95405	<a href="mailto:bandm@monitor.net">bandm@monitor.net</a>

#### Committee Chairs

<b>Field Trips</b>	19 Wooddale Drive	763-8572
Alan Wight	Petaluma CA 94952	<a href="mailto:shwand@sonic.net">shwand@sonic.net</a>
<b>Observations</b>	129-B Powell Avenue	431-8412
Ned Wynn	Healdsburg CA 95448	<a href="mailto:ekwvnn@pon.net">ekwvnn@pon.net</a>
<b>Social</b>	<b>Position Open</b>	
<b>Christmas Count</b>	5850 Grove Street	935-3410
Ted Eliot	Sonoma CA 95476-6095	<a href="mailto:patted@sonic.net">patted@sonic.net</a>
Bob Evans		823-0609
<b>Kite Tales</b>	PO Box 548	538-9194
Linda Allen	Kenwood 95452	<a href="mailto:lsallen@sonic.net">lsallen@sonic.net</a>

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. Dues are \$15 per family, \$8 per individual, or \$3 per student for one year membership. Send dues to RROS, 1653 Arroyo Sierra Way, Santa Rosa, CA 95405



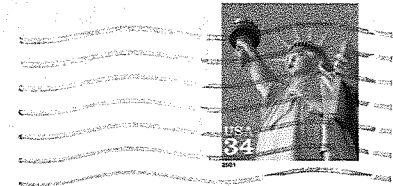
## CALENDAR

- April 11<sup>th</sup> General Meeting.....7:30 PM
- April 20<sup>th</sup> Field Trip.....7:30 AM
- April 20<sup>th</sup> Observations Deadline
- April 23<sup>rd</sup> Kite Tales Deadline
- May 9<sup>th</sup> Potluck Picnic.....6:00 PM
- May 18<sup>th</sup> Field Trip.....8:00 AM
- July .....No activities
- August .....No activities
- Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> Potluck.....6:00 PM

### **An Open Invitation**

Prior to the General Meetings, October through April, join us for dinner at 6:00 PM. We have a standing reservation for a large table at Mary's Pizza Shack, 101 Golf Course Drive, Rohnert Park. Just ask the hostess for the RROS table.

**Kite Tales Editor**  
**PO Box 548**  
**Kenwood, CA 95452-0548**



Parmeter, BD & S, Fnd. Membrs  
 2500 Emerson St.  
 Napa CA 94558

