



# Kite Tales

Volume 38 Number I

September 2003

## Coming Attractions

### **Thursday September 11- 6:00 p.m. – General Meeting at Doran County Park, Bodega Bay**

Annual potluck and evening bird walk (we will scope the bay for migrants.). We will be at the picnic tables in first paved parking lot on beach side. There is a parking fee. Bring a dish, warm clothes, flashlight, binoculars, scopes. Take Hwy 1 to Bodega Bay. Turn off highway at Doran Park sign and follow road up hill and down to park entrance.

**Note:** For those who can make it earlier – Ruth Rudesill will be at Owl Canyon at 3:00pm to look for migrants. Call Ruth for directions and information.

### **Saturday, September 27 – 7:30a.m. Field Trip to Point Reyes National Seashore**

Our traditional trip to this wonderful birding spot. Meet at 7:30 am at the Petaluma Park-and-Ride (located at Highway 101 and Lakeville Highway just west of Highway 101) for carpooling. We will be searching the usual spots for fall migrants and vagrants. Bring binoculars, spotting scopes, field guides, lunch, water, and warm clothes. Leader is Alan Wight. Call Alan at 763-8572 (weekdays 7-9 pm or weekends any time) if you have any questions.

### **Saturday, October 18 – 8:00 a.m. Field Trip to Bodega Harbor**

Meet in the parking area near the rail ponds at the north end of Bodega Harbor at 8:00 AM. We will search for migrants, vagrants, and birds that have returned for the winter. Bring binoculars, spotting scopes, field guides, lunch, water, and warm clothes. Leader is Alan Wight. Call Alan at 763-8572 (weekdays 7-9 pm or weekends any time) if you have any questions.

**Welcome New Members: Rigdon Currie, Anne Spencer and Phil Taylor!**

**Mitchell Canyon Field Trip Report April 26, 2003 by Alan Wight**

Twenty of us enjoyed a nice collection of spring migrants, including multiple Hammond's Flycatchers, Nashville Warblers, Hermit Warblers, and Townsend's Warblers. At one point, four adult Golden Eagles were seen flying in a line high above a ridge. Towards the end of the field trip, a few of us saw a single male Calliope Hummingbird. Participants were Linda Allen, Dick Ashford, Bob Battagin, Ted Eliot, Deborah Fitzpatrick, Betty Groce, Jack Groce, Richard Hurley, Heidi Lebaudour, Rick Lebaudour, Joan Merriss, Richard Merriss, Ian Morrison, Becky Olsen, Cynthia Rathkey, John Rathkey, Don Reinberg, Carole Sunlight, Alan Wight, and Ken Wilson.

**Birds observed:** Turkey Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, California Quail, Mourning Dove, White-throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Calliope Hummingbird, Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird, Acorn Woodpecker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Western Wood-Pewee, Hammond's Flycatcher, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Cliff Swallow, Steller's Jay, Western Scrub-Jay, Oak Titmouse, Bushtit, White-breasted Nuthatch, Bewick's Wren, House Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Western Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, Wrentit, Northern Mockingbird, California Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, European Starling, Hutton's Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Hermit Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Spotted Towhee, California Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, Bullock's Oriole, Purple Finch, Lesser Goldfinch.

**Geysers Road Field Trip Report May 17, 2003 by Alan Wight**

Our group saw a nice mix of birds migrating north and ones breeding along Geysers Road. The main highlight of the trip was a flock of approximately 20 Black Swifts that flew right over us as they headed north. Other highlights of the trip include one Nashville Warbler, one Hermit Warbler, two Golden Eagles, a pair of nesting Lark Sparrows, as well as Rufous-crowned Sparrows, White-throated Swifts, and Purple Martins. Participants were Ken Ackerman, Linda Allen, Sharon Audiss, Jim Clegg, Ted Eliot, Betty Groce, Rick Lebaudour, Gloria Markowitz, Don McCarthy, Carol Orme, Mike Parmeter, Jean Tonascia, and Alan Wight.

**Birds observed:** Turkey Vulture, White-tailed Kite, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, American Kestrel, California Quail, Mountain Quail, Mourning Dove, Black Swift, White-throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Acorn Woodpecker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Western Wood-Pewee, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Purple Martin, Violet-green Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Steller's Jay, Western Scrub-Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Oak Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Bewick's Wren, House Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Western Bluebird, American Robin, Wrentit, California Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, European Starling, Cassin's Vireo, Hutton's Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Hermit Warbler, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Spotted Towhee, California Towhee, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Sage Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Western Meadowlark, Brown-headed Cowbird, Purple Finch, Lesser Goldfinch.

**Unofficial Field Trip to Annadel State Park – June 14, 2003 – by Ruth Rudesill**

Five birders joined Ruth Rudesill at the horse trailer parking lot at Annadel SP. It was very warm and the birds were active early but quieted later on. Participants were: Avis Anderson, Richard Anderson, Eleanor Guilford, Louise Johnston, Rhio Reigh

Birds seen/heard: Coopers Hawk, Red-Shouldered Hawk, Turkey Vulture, Acorn Woodpecker, Wild Turkey, Anna's Hummingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Pacific-sloped Flycatcher, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Common Raven, Steller's Jay, Bushtit, Cassin's Vireo, Huttons Vireo, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, California Towhee, Dark-eyed Junco, Spotted Towhee, Song Sparrow, Lesser Goldfinch

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**SPECIAL EVENT - 7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CENTRAL VALLEY BIRDING SYMPOSIUM**

Cheri Pillsbury reports the Central Valley Bird Club will be hosting the Seventh Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium Nov. 20-23, 2003 at the Radisson Hotel in Stockton, CA.

There will be field trips, workshops, a Birding Nature Fair and Art Show with over 25 vendors selling nature related items, etc.

**Jon Dunn** will be giving a Sparrow ID workshop, **Steve Howell** a Hummingbird ID Workshop, and **Kimball Garrett** will tell us "Why Birders Should Care About Subspecies".

The Keynote Speakers are: **Ed Harper**- "A Passion for Birds", **Keith Hansen**- "The Farallons", and **John Hendrickson**- "California Raptors".

The schedule, registration form, etc. are on the website: <http://cvbs.org>  
The non-computer inclined can contact Frances Oliver at (209) 369-2010.

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**Redwood Region Ornithological Society 2002-2003- Officers****Board of Directors**

President	Eric Lichtwardt	480 Zimpher Drive Sebastopol CA 95472	<a href="mailto:bufo@pacbell.net">bufo@pacbell.net</a>	829-3460
Vice President	Ian Morrison	Adobe Canyon Rd Kenwood CA 95452		538-9194
Treasurer	Mike Nelligan	1653 Arroyo Sierra Way Santa Rosa CA 95405	<a href="mailto:bandm@monitor.net">bandm@monitor.net</a>	527-0225

**Committee Chairs**

Field Trips	Alan Wight		<a href="mailto:shwand@sonic.net">shwand@sonic.net</a>	763-8572
Observations	Ned Wynn	129-B Powell Ave Healdsburg CA 95448	<a href="mailto:nedwynn@sbcglobal.net">nedwynn@sbcglobal.net</a>	431-8412
Christmas Count	Ted Eliot	5850 Grove Street Sonoma CA 95476	<a href="mailto:patted@pon.net">patted@pon.net</a>	935-3410
	Bob Evans			823-0609
Kite Tales	Ruth Rudesill	PO Box 371 Kenwood CA 95452	<a href="mailto:rar@pcweb.net">rar@pcweb.net</a>	833-6026

**Kite Tales Deadlines**

September 20<sup>th</sup> Observations Deadline  
Submit sightings to New Wynn  
via email or call between 8 am and 8 pm

September 24<sup>th</sup> Submission Deadline  
Submit all announcements, articles,  
trivia, letters, etc. to Ruth Rudesill  
via email, mail or phone call

## Report of the Treasurer – Report of Finances for RROS year 2002-2003

Prepared by Elizabeth Burrige

Beginning bank balance 7-01-02 \$ 5,156

## Receipts

Dues	\$ 707
Book Sales	1,867
Books, shipping, handling, tax	80
Donations	245
Field cards sold and misc.	14

Total receipts for year \$ 2,913

## Disbursements

Kite Tales newsletter	736
Guest Speakers	232
Printing: Birds of Sonoma Co (!)	2,016
Memorial donation for Dr. Jack Arnold disbursed to SSU	1,000
Sales tax: book sales	181

Total disbursements for year \$ 4,165

Total disbursements over receipts -1,252

Ending Bank Balance, 6-30-03 (2) (3) \$3,904

(1) This amount represents the cost of the second printing of the second edition of BIRDS OF SONOMA COUNTY. Books on hand at June 30, 2003 are 495 copies of which approximately 70 copies are obligated for free distribution to schools in Sonoma County. This obligation arises in accordance with the Agreement with the heir of Gordon Bolander, co-author of the original BIRDS OF SONOMA COUNTY in which agreement the heir instructed that the heir's share of the book profits should be used for free distribution of the book schools in Sonoma County

(2) Includes \$365 Ellis Memorial finds.

(3) Includes \$ 35 reserved for sales tax payment.

**2003 Dues are due- if you haven't paid, please \$8 for single or \$15 for family to Mike Nelligan ASAP.**

## Observations

Per the August 2003 *Petaluma Post*- Bob Dyer reported a new egret and heron colony across the river from Shollenberger Park. The birds arrived in April, and by July 14<sup>th</sup> Dyer and Len Nelson counted 29 nests with combined 47 nestlings. This colony was viewed from trail markers #8 and #9. This colony was in eucalyptus trees and had Great Egret (18 nests with 31 chicks), Snowy Egrets (9 nests and 12 chicks), and Great Blue Herons (2 nests and 4 chicks).  
 ✓ This site was designated Shollenberger Petaluma River #121 by the Heron and Egret Project.

Bird Species	Date	Location	Cty	#	Observers	Notes
Laysan Albatross	7/26/03	Cordell Bank	MRN	2	RAR,TE,LH,LL,CL	
✓ Black-footed Albatross	5/6/03	offshore Sonoma Co.	SON	1	DN	
Black-footed Albatross	7/26/03	Cordell Bank	MRN	200+	RAR,TE,CL,LL	mob
✓ Sooty Shearwater	5/6/03	offshore Sonoma County	SON	650	DN	
✓ Leach's Storm-petrel	8/31/03	N.Bodega Canyon	SON!	1	RS,RAR,TE,AW	mob
Wilson's Storm-petrel	8/31/03	Cordell Bank	MRN	1	RS,RAR,	mob
Being pursued by a Long-tailed Jaeger!						
✓ American Bittern	4/25/03	Shollenberger Park	SON	2	AW	displaying
✓ American Bittern	6/12/03	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	AW	displaying
✓ American Bittern	7/2/03	Shollenberger Park	SON	1juv	BD,Ron Storey	
Probable nest in Shollenberger area -Alman Marsh (photos submitted)						
✓ Snowy Egret	6/15/03	across Shollenberger	SON	14 nests	BDP	
✓ Great Egret	6/15/03	across Shollenberger	SON	2 nests	BDP	
✓ Great Blue Heron	6/15/03	scross Shollenberger	SON	2 nests	BDP	
✓ Cattle Egret	5/17/03	Santa Rosa	SON	3	BDP,AW	
nesting in w 9 <sup>th</sup> St rookery						
✓ Double-cr Cormorant	6/3/03	Delta pond Laguna de Santa Rosa	SON	30 nests	AW	colony
Canada Goose	4/29/03	pond 1/4 mi. E. of Carmody Rd.,off Bodega Hwy.	SON	2	DN,JW	nesting
✓ Gr.White-front Goose	5/4/03	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	AW	
✓ Harlequin Duck	8/18/03	off Virgin Creek Beach	MEN	5	BDP	
✓ Greater Scaup	7/30/03	Bodega Harbor	SON	1 m	Mike Heffernon, Kate Gonnella	
✓ Northern Pintail	5/17/03	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	BDP,AW	
✓ Blue-winged Teal	8/14/03	Shollenberger Park	SON	2	AW	
✓ Black Rail	7/17/03	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	AW	heard
Peregrine Falcon	6/14-29/03	2 D St BridgePetaluma	SON	1	AW	
✓ Cooper's Hawk	4/9/03	Ragle Park, Sebastopol	SON	2	KU	
nesting pair						
Semipalmated Plover	4/10/03	Bodega Harbor	SON	50+	BGr	
✓ American Avocet	4/29/03	pond e. of Carmody Rd.	SON	sev	DN,JW	
Pectoral Sandpiper	8/18/03	Binford Rd ponds	MRN	1	AW, DASH	

**KITE TALES**

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**September 2003**

✓ Whimbrel	5/3/03	pond near Carmody Road	SON	88	DN	high #
✓ Marbled Godwit	6/8-9/2003	Across from Marin Lab	SON	500	CL, LL, SC, BDP	flock of 500 on mudflats. Bodega Harbor Later seen flying over the bay, heading north?
✓ Lesser Yellowlegs	4/29/03	pond e. of Carmody Rd.	SON	1	DN	
✓ Lesser Yellowlegs	8/17/03	Carmody Rd pond	SON	2	AW	
Lesser Yellowlegs	8/20-22/03	Virgin Creek Beach	MEN	1	BDP	
✓ Solitary Sandpiper	4/29/03	pond e. of Carmody Rd.	SON	1	DN, RLe	
✓ Whimbrel	5/3/03	pond e. of Carmody Rd	SON	88	DN	
✓ Red Knot	8/8/03	Bodega Bay	SON	26	BBu, MN	
Wandering Tattler	8/20/03	Laguna Point	MEN	5	BDP	
✓ Baird's Sandpiper	8/17/03	Bodega Harbor	SON	1juv	AW	
✓ Baird's Sandpiper	8/26/03	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	DAsh	
✓ Red Phalarope	5/6/03	offshore Sonoma Co.	SON	30-40	DN	
mostly alt. plumage						
✓ Red-necked Phalarope	5/6/03	offshore Sonoma Co.	SON	55+	DN	
Red-necked Phalarope	8/16/03	Shollenberger Park	SON	5	BOI	
✓ Red-necked Phalarope	8/17/03	Russian River mouth	SON	150+	AW	
Wilson's Phalarope	3/21/03	Virgin Beach	MEN	1	BDP	
✓ Bonaparte's Gull	5/3/03	Lakeville treatment ponds	SON	58	DN	
✓ Black Tern	4/16/03	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	AL	
Arctic Tern	5/6/03	Offshore Sonoma County	SON	1	DN	
Common Tern	8/20/03	Virgin Creek Beach	MEN	1	BDP	
✓ Forster's Tern	5/17-6/12/03	Shollenberger Park	SON	14+	AW, BDP	
8 on nests, 1 fledgling – County Record for nesting 6/15/03 deserted to 2 birds						
Caspian Tern	4/16/03	Spring Lake	SON	4	CM, BT	
Long-tailed Jaeger	7/26/03	Cordell Bank	MRN	1	RAR, TE, LH, LL, CL	
✓ Long-tailed Jaeger	8/31/03	N. Bodega Canyon	SON	3-4	RS, RAR, TE, AW mob	
Long-tailed Jaeger	8/31/03	Cordell Bank	MRN	100+	RS, RAR, AW, TE mob	
Many, many seen more common than all the gulls combined						
South Polar Skua	7/26/03	Cordell Bank	MRN	1-2	RAR, TE, LH, LL, CL	
✓ South Polar Skua	8/31/03	N. Bodega Canyon	SON	2	RS, RAR, TE, AW mob	
South Polar Skua	8/31/03	Cordell Bank	MEN	4+	RS, CL, LL, RAR mob	
✓ Marbled Murrelet	8/12/03	Bodega Harbor	SON	1	Tom Grey	
In basic plumage						
✓ Rhinoceros Auklet	5/6/03	Offshore Sonoma Cnty	SON	7-8	DN	
✓ Rhinoceros Auklet	8/31/03	offshore Sonoma CO	SON	40+	RS, RAR, TE mob	
Rhinoceros Auklet	8/31/03	Cordell Bank area	MRN	150+	RS, RAR, AW, RMe, mob	
Highest numbers seen, RS said may be entire population from NorCal nesting area						
✓ Long-eared Owl	4/19/03	Penngrove	SON	1	RLe	
Calling in yard						
✓ Calliope Hummingbird	4/27/03	El Verano	SON	2	LBr	
✓ Calliope Hummingbird	4/29-5/1/03	Owl Canyon	SON	4	DN 3m, 4f	
Calliope Hummingbird	5/1/03	Inverness yard, @ feeder	MRN	4	RS	
Rufous Hummingbird	4/29-30/03	Owl Canyon	SON	5-7	DN	
Rufous Hummingbird	5/1/03	Inverness yard @ feeder	MRN	7+	RS	
Vaux' Swift	4/30/03	Owl Canyon, overhead	SON	1	DN	

**KITE TALES**

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**September 2003**

Vaux's Swift	8/22/03	Virgin Creek	MEN	12	BDP
✓ Black Swift	5/17/03	Geysers Road	SON	20+	AW, RROS, RLe, BDP
✓ White-winged Dove	5/30/03	Campbell Cove	SON	1	DN
Western Kingbird	3/21/03	laguina Point	MEN	1	BDP
✓ Olive-sided Flycatcher	4/17/03	Adobe Canyon Rd.	SON	1	IM
Olive-sided Flycatcher	5/1/03	Yard in Bodega Bay	SON	1	NC
✓ Hammond's Flycatcher	5/3/03	Penngrove; Goodwin Ave	SON	1	RLe, BDP, DN
✓ Gray Flycatcher	5/3/03	Penngrove; Goodwin Ave.	SON	1	RLe
✓ Gray Catbird	6/10-12/03	Owl Canyon	SON	1	DHo, DN
✓ Purple Martin	5/17/03	Geysers Road	SON	6+	AW, RROS, BDP
Purple Martin	5/23/03	Stewarts Point	SON	1	BDP, calling
✓ Wrenit	6/9/03	Hole-in-the-Head	SON	1	BDP singing
American Dipper	8/18/03	Russian Gulch SP	MEN	1	BDP
✓ Yellow-billed Magpie	7/19/03	milepost 29.0 Hwy 1 n Jenner	SON	1	DN
Swainson's Thrush	4/29/03	Owl Canyon	SON	1	DN
Varied Thrush	8/20/03	Jug Handle SR	MEN	1	BDP
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	5/13/03	Sugarloaf Park	SON	4	AW
Cassin's Vireo	5/1/03	Owl Canyon	SON	1	DN
✓ MacGillivray's Warbler	4/23/03	Salmon Creek Rd.	SON	1	TE
✓ Nashville Warbler	5/17/03	Geysers Road	SON	2	AW, RROS, BDP
✓ Yellow-rumped Warbler	5/3/03	Owl Canyon	SON	1	DN singing
Yellow Warbler	4/21/03	Schollenberger Park	SON	1	DN
Hermit Warbler	5/17/03	Geysers Road	SON	1	AW, RROS, BDP
MacGillivray's Warbler	8/14/03	Muddy Hollow	MRN	1 imm	BDP
Yellow-breasted Chat	4/20/03	Along Russian River	SON	1	Ded
✓ Yellow-breasted Chat	6/3/03	Delta Pond	SON	2	AW heard
✓ Great-tailed Grackle	4/17/03	Rooster Run Golf course	SON	1m	DN
Bobolink	7/20/03	Point Reyes	MRN	1	AW
✓ Grasshopper Sparrow	5/23/03	Lichaau Road	SON	1	AW singing
✓ Grasshopper Sparrow	5/26/03	Geysers Road	SON	2	AW
✓ Sage Sparrow	5/17/03	Geysers Road	SON	1	BDP, RROS
White-throated Sparrow (late)	5/8/03	Glen Echo Dr., S.R.	SON	1	LB
Black-headed Grosbeak	4/9/03	off Willowside Rd.	SON	1	CS
Black-headed Grosbeak	4/16/03	Spring Lake	SON	2	CM, BT
✓ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	6/11-12/03	Cazadero	SON	1 m	DB, PC
✓ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	6/4/03	Sebastopol	SON	1m	Lynn Brittan
Red Crossbill	8/20/03	Jug Handle SR	MEN	30+	BDP
Lapland Longspur	4/9/03	Bucchli Station,	NAP	1	BDP heard.

CONTRIBUTORS: Dick Ashford, Dennis Beall, Larry Broderick, Betty Burrige, Lisa Burquist, Nancy Conzett, Pam Conley, Bob Dyer, Daniel Edelstein, Ted Eliot, Betty Groce, David Hoffmann, Lisa Hug, Rick Lebadour, Les and Cindy Lieurance, Andy LaCasse, Tiffany Martin, Richard Merris, Carolyn Metz, Ian Morrison, Mike Nelligan, Dan Nelson, Becky Olsen, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Claire Shruvington, Rich Stallcup, Barbara Tomin, Alan Wight and Jon Winter.

**Thank you to all who contributed to this issue – keep the submissions coming!**