



Kite Tales

Volume 38 Number VIII

April 2004

Coming Attractions

Thursday, April 8, 7:30 General Meeting at Administration Building, Laguna Wastewater Treatment Plant 4300 Llano Road , Santa Rosa

Program is “Birds and Birding in Chile” by Alvaro Jaramillo

Wow! Another great speaker! Alvaro Jaramillo is a well known birder, tour leader, and author of *Birds of Chile* published in 2003. He will be talking about birds and birding in Chile. Don't miss this program!!!

Saturday, April 24, 7:30/9:00 a.m. - Field Trip to Mitchell Canyon, Contra Costa County

This beautiful canyon on the slopes of Mt. Diablo is a great 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 US 101.

To get to Mitchell Canyon, take Highway 680 south to Walnut Creek. Take the Ygnacio Valley Road exit east (this exit may only be available going north so you may have to turn around after passing Walnut Creek). Once on Ygnacio Valley Road, drive east 7.7 miles; 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 Field Trip details on page 2

Saturday, May 22, 8:00 a.m. - Field Trip to Pine Flat Road

We'll search for chaparral, grassland, and woodland birds along the length of Pine Flat Road. 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.

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IF YOU WEREN'T AT THE MARCH MEETING, YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN by Betty Burridge

John Kelley, (the authoritative and very witty Dir. of Research and Resource Mgmt. at Cypress Grove Research Center of ACR) opened our eyes and whetted our appetites to turn our attention to relatively underbirded Tomales Bay. Yellow-billed Loons, Black and Yellow Rails, and Little Gull have all been seen there, but many commoner species are seldom reported because birders do not think to investigate that nearby and very accessible rich biological resource.

John also reported on his extensive raven research. Some years back, raven predation was thought to be threatening the very existence of the Picher Canyon egret colony at ACR. But extensive investigation now leads John to believe that ravens, besides being fascinating, incredibly clever and amazingly conniving birds, are probably not a major threat to the egret colony we all love to explore each year. You had to be there to believe it.

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CURRENT WILDFLOWER INFORMATION reported by Betty Burridge

Up-to-date reports of natural wildflower displays in California can be monitored on the internet at www.calphoto.com/wflower.htm. Individuals send sightings from all over the state and alert the public to what is flowering and where. This is a wonderful resource for the casual and the serious botanists and photographers.

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Election of Officers for year beginning 7/1/04 please note:

At the February meeting, the membership appointed a nominating committee. At the March meeting the nominating committee presented its report and a slate of officers. Lisa Hug will be our new Vice President. The election will take place at the April meeting. DON'T MISS THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING ON APRIL 8TH.

Field trip report from Klamath Basin area trip last February –

This editor apologizes to Rick Lebaudour who dutifully called and left a message about this trip. The editor got busy and forgot to call him back. A report of this field trip will be in the May *Kite Tales*.

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And from the “Every bird species will show up in Sonoma County someday” file- there was a recent e-mail, second hand report of a Green Kingfisher in Bodega Bay a few years ago???

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Wanted: New *Kite Tales* Editor by Ruth Rudesill

After two years or so, is time for a new *Kite Tales* editor starting with the September 2004 issue. I am going to be very busy this fall and will not have time to continue. If you are interested, let me know. Access to the Internet is a must but the rest is mostly getting reports from various officers and committee people.

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Redwood Region Ornithological Society 2003-2004- Officers/Board of Directors

President	Eric Lichtwardt	480 Zimpher Dr. Sebastopol CA 95472	eric.lightwardt@lsa-assoc.com	
				829-3460
Vice President	Ian Morrison	Adobe Canyon Rd Kenwood CA 95452	ian@svn.net	833-2065
Secretary	Deyea Harper	2310 Northwood Dr Santa Rosa CA95404		542-1542
Treasurer	Mike Nelligan	1653 Arroyo Sierra Way Santa Rosa CA 95405	bandm@monitor.net	527-0225

Committee Chairs

Field Trips	Alan Wight		shwand@sonic.net	763-8572
Observations	Ned Wynn			431-8412
Christmas Count	Ted Eliot	5850 Grove Street Sonoma CA 95476	patted@pon.net	935-3410
	Bob Evans		rgevans@sonic.net	823-0609
Kite Tales	Ruth Rudesill	PO Box 371 Kenwood CA 95452	rar@pcweb.net	833-6026

Kite Tales Deadlines:

April 20th Observations Deadline
Submit sightings to Ruth Rudesill,
until further notice.

April 24th Submission Deadline
Submit all announcements, articles, trivia, letters
etc. to Ruth Rudesill via email, mail or phone.

Observations

<u>Bird Species</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Cty</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Observers Notes</u>
✓ Gr White-fronted Goose continuing	3/6/04	Adobe Rd at Stage Gulch Rd	SON	3	AWgh
✓ Ross's Goose	3/20/04	Shollenberger Park	SON	4	RROS Field Trip
✓ Blue-winged Teal	3/20/04	Shollenberger Park	SON	19	RROS Field Trip
✓ Eurasian Wigeon male and female	3/20/04	Shollenberger Park	SON	2	RROS Field Trip
✓ Bald Eagle	3/5/04	Laguna area	SON	1	LPr
Swainson's Hawk (dk. ad.) winter /migrant?	2/27/04	China Camp S.P	MRN	1	DN
Rough-legged Hawk	3/13/04	Hwy 1; w of Valley Ford	SON	1	LLi,CLi
Ferruginous Hawk	3/10/04	Ramal Rd.	SON	1 imm	DN
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3/10/04	Paula Ln.; Petaluma	SON	1 imm	DN
Peregrine Falcon	3/20/04	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	RROS Field Trip
✓ Long-billed Curlew	3/10/04	Occidental x Sanford Rd	SON	99	KWi
Bonaparte's Gull	2/28/04	Shollenberger Park	SON	4	RAR
✓ Glaucous Gull among the several thousand gulls there	2/28/04	Shollenberger Park	SON	1 ad	RAR
✓ Burrowing Owl	3/10/04	Hudemann Slough	SON	1	DN
White-throated Swift	3/6-13/04	Hwy 101 @ Petaluma	SON	4-5	DN
Pacific-sloped Flycatcher returning	3/19/04	Kenwood yard	SON	1	RAR
Loggerhead Shrike	3/12/04	Santa Rosa Creek	SON	2	KWi, BOI, BP
Barn Swallow	3/11/04	Paula Ln. Petaluma	SON	1	DN
Cliff Swallow	3/5/04	Carmody Rd.	SON	2	FJ
Cliff Swallow	3/6/04	Hwy 101 @ Petaluma River	SON	5	DN
Cedar Waxwing	3/2/04	Bodega Bay; in yard	SON	50+	NC
✓ Hooded Oriole	3/24/04	Santa Rosa yard feeder	SON	1	JT
✓ Great-tailed Grackle	3/18/04	Rooster run Golf Course	SON	1m	DN

.These birds were first seen at this location in 2000, and nested in 2001.

Observers: Nancy Conzett, George Griffiths, Lisa Hug, Fred Jacobs, Rick Lebaudour, Les and Cindy Lieurance, Becky Olsen, Dan Nelson, Bill Payne, Liza Prunuske, Ruth Rudesill, Jean Tonaschia, Alan Wight, and Ken Wilson

Old Record of Black Swift

submitted by BD "Mike" Parmeter

On August 19, 1980 – a **Black Swift** was seen flying over Owl Canyon, Sonoma County. Observed by Phil Lenna and John Parmeter.

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Rare birds in other areas of California

reported by Ruth Rudesill

I get e-mails of rare bird alerts from all over the west including several lists in California. There have been some great birds both north and south of us.

North: On March 20, a male Baikal Teal was seen at Lower Klamath NWR on the main refuge drive. It was not banded. The bird was not relocated the next day.

South: In the Salten Sea area, there have been some great birds - an Anhinga has been wintering at Finney Lake. A Roseate Spoonbill was seen at Fig Lagoon, at end of Bowles Road. Reddish Egret near Lindsey. Ruddy Ground-doves have been in several locations including outside Calipatria. Harris Hawk seen near Fig Lagoon. Sprague's Pipits have been wintering that area as well. My state list would climb if I have the time and money to chase!

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Per Kimball Garrett (on CalBirds list) two new birds have been voted on to the Official California State List by the California Bird Records Committee-

Falcated Duck which spent two winters at Honey Lake, Lassen County (2002 and 2003)
Cory's Shearwater seen August 9, 2003 - here in Sonoma County waters!
State List now totals **622** species!

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 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 8	General Meeting 7:30 pm
April 20	Observations Deadline
April 24	Kite Tales Deadline
April 24	Field Trip to Mitchell Canyon
May 22	Field Trip to Pine Flat Road

Kite Tales
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