



Kite Tales

Volume 39 Number I

September 2004

Coming Attractions

Saturday, Sept. 11 – 5:00 - Potluck Meeting - Bodega Bay

The first meeting of the year will be a fun gathering to see your old birding buddies and meet some new members. Plan to bird before and after the dinner. Be prepared for cool and windy weather but the sun gods may bless us with Native American Summer. Meet at 5:00 p.m. at Westside Park To reach the picnic area, travel north through the town of Bodega Bay, turn left onto Eastshore Rd. then right onto Bay Flat Road. Continue around the harbor to Westside Park Day Use Area. There is a \$5 entry fee to park in the lot, but parking is also available at the edge of the road. Picnic tables are under the cypress trees. Bring your own silverware and dishes.

Saturday, September 25 – Field Trip to Point Reyes National Seashore

Our traditional fall trip to this great birding spot. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Petaluma Park-and-Ride (located at Highway 101 and Lakeville Highway just west of Highway 101) for carpooling. We will search 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 23 – Field Trip to Bodega Harbor

Meet in the parking area near the rail ponds at the north end of Bodega Harbor at 8:00 a.m. 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 p.m. or weekends any time) if you have any questions.

September 15th-ish “The Swifts are coming!” Mid September is the best time to observe thousands of Vaux’s Swifts that annually use the chimney of Healdsburg’s Rio Lindo Adventist Academy, 3200 Rio Lindo Ave. at dusk to roost/stage on their southward migration. The well-mannered public is welcomed by the school each evening from sunset until dark. This spectacular display should not be missed by anyone with any interest in nature and the out-of-doors. To get there: take the southern Healdsburg (Old Redwood Highway) exit from Hwy. 101 north to Bailhache Ave. Turn right on Bailhache to the end of the road.

“The bluebird carries the sky on his back” Henry David Thoreau, (1817-1862)

Pine Flat Road Field Trip Report - May 22, 2004

- ✓ Fourteen of us enjoyed a nice spring day on Pine Flat Road. The highlights were at least three
- ✓ Sage Sparrows in the chaparral at the top of the road, one or two Nashville Warblers, a few Purple
- ✓ Martins, and both Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks. The field trip participants were Linda
- ✓ Allen, Betty Burrige, Betty Groce, Jack Groce, Don Howard, Don Kirker, Rick LeBaudour, Martie
- ✓ Leys, Richard Merriss, Mike Nelligan, Don Reinberg, Ann Stone, Jean Tonascia, and Alan Wight.

Birds observed: Turkey Vulture, Canada Goose, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Wild Turkey, Mountain Quail, California Quail, Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Acorn Woodpecker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Western Wood-Pewee, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Cassin's Vireo, Hutton's Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Steller's Jay, Western Scrub-Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Purple Martin, Violet-green Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Oak Titmouse, Bushtit, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Bewick's Wren, House Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Western Bluebird, American Robin, Wrentit, Northern Mockingbird, California Thrasher, European Starling, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Western Tanager, Spotted Towhee, California Towhee, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Sage Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, Bullock's Oriole, Purple Finch, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch.

Alan Wight

Kern River Preserve Field Trip Report - June 11-14, 2004

We all had a great time birding Kern River Preserve and the surrounding area with Bob Barnes as our leader. The big highlight of the trip was a singing Grace's Warbler at Chimney Creek Campground in eastern Tulare County that was first identified on May 30 and stayed in the same area until at least July 25. We were a couple days early for the first arriving Yellow-billed Cuckoo, which showed up on June 16. We saw many birds in the wide variety of habitats in the area. The highlights were three Vermilion Flycatchers, one less-than-cooperative Brown-crested Flycatcher, multiple singing Plumbeous Vireos, a winnowing Wilson's Snipe, multiple Greater Roadrunners, ten species of woodpeckers, four species of Empidonax flycatchers (we missed Pacific-slope), and a nice male Summer Tanager perched and singing in the open. A private residence in Inyokern added a Le Conte's Thrasher, a Hooded Oriole, Costa's Hummingbirds, and Verdin's at a nest. We observed a total of 134 species of birds as well as a male Indigo Bunting x Lazuli Bunting hybrid. The field trip participants were Deyea Harper, Joel Hornstein, Linda Hornstein, Don Howard, Adeene Nelligan, Mike Nelligan, Mike Parmeter, Don Toms, and Alan Wight.

More details and photos from the trip are available here:

http://www.sonic.net/~schwand/kern_2004.htm

Birds observed: Western/Clark's Grebe, American White Pelican, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Turkey Vulture, Mallard, Osprey, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon, Blue Grouse, California Quail, Mountain Quail, Wilson's Snipe, California Gull, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Greater Roadrunner, Great Horned Owl, Lesser Nighthawk, Common Nighthawk, White-throated Swift, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Anna's Hummingbird, Costa's Hummingbird, Calliope, Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Acorn Woodpecker, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Williamson's Sapsucker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, White-headed Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Western Wood-Pewee, Willow Flycatcher, Hammonds Flycatcher, Dusky Flycatcher, (continued on Page 3)

Black Phoebe, Says Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, Plumbeous Vireo, Cassin's Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Steller's Jay, Western Scrub-Jay, Pinyon Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Common Raven, Tree Swallow, Violet-green Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Mountain Chickadee, Oak Titmouse, Bushtit, Verdin, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Pygmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Cactus Wren, Rock Wren, Canyon Wren, Bewick's Wren, House Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Western Bluebird, Mountain Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Wrentit, Northern Mockingbird, Le Conte's Thrasher, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Grace's Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Summer Tanager, Western Tanager, Green-tailed Towhee, Spotted Towhee, California Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Black-throated Sparrow, Sage Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Black-headed Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Tricolored Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, Great-tailed Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Hooded Oriole, Bullock's Oriole, Purple Finch, Cassin's Finch, House Finch, Red Crossbill, Lesser Goldfinch, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Evening Grosbeak, House Sparrow.

Alan Wight

Bird Research Takes Wing in the Laguna

Anna L. W. Sears

Most of all, the Laguna is the domain of the birds. As the new research director of the Laguna Foundation, I have been out traversing the trails and trackless areas along the channel, familiarizing myself with the topography, the plant and animal communities, and contemplating how we humans fit into the rest of the ecosystem. I cannot say which is more delightful, the startling herons and hawks, or the cryptic birds building thistledown nests among the stalks of curly dock. The variety is poignant in itself. The Foundation is now in the process of writing a restoration and management plan for the Laguna Area, and as the members of RROS may suspect, birds will play a central role in this plan.

Bird populations are one of the best-known indicators of ecosystem health and habitat quality. Rather than using arbitrary ways to evaluate habitat, we ask which patches of forest, field and marshland are best from the point of view of the residents – based on the distribution and abundance of bird species. Baseline information on the abundance and species diversity of bird populations will also be crucial for evaluating the success of restoration efforts, over the long-term. To gather this information, the Laguna Foundation is partnering with the Sonoma County Open Space District and PRBO to carry out a systematic inventory of birds in the Laguna Area.

The Open Space District has begun trail planning for the Laguna, on the City of Santa Rosa irrigation farms and on land soon to be acquired near the Laguna Wetlands Preserve. In order to balance outdoor recreation with protection of sensitive breeding habitats, they are keenly interested in the whereabouts of bird species. To inform this planning process, the District has contracted with PRBO to perform Winter ('04/ '05) and Summer ('05) surveys along the central reach of the Laguna. The Laguna Foundation hopes to use university students and volunteer birders to extend and elaborate these surveys, to get a more comprehensive picture of populations along the entire channel. If you have questions about the District's trail plans, and/or want to volunteer, please contact Kathleen Brennan-Hunter at 707-565-7360.

There is a lot going on at the Laguna Foundation these days. For more information, please contact us at: 707-527-9277, or on the web at: <http://www.lagunadesantarosa.org>.

Observations – Ruth Rudesill

✓ Bird Species	Date	Location	Co.	#	Observers
✓ Long-tailed Duck	7/7/04	Bodega Harbor jetty	SON	1	AWgh
Long-tailed Duck	7/29-31/04	Doran Beach	SON	1	RS, BBU
Apparently a last year's hatch bird that did not molt into alternate plumage. Feather shafts bare on tail and wings. Weak and may be failing. BBU					
✓ Northern Fulmar	7/27/04	off Bodega Head	SON	1	JMR
✓ White Pelican	6/5/04	Bodega Harbor	SON	68	RS
Cattle Egret	7/1/04	Irwin Lane Santa Rosa	SON	1	DSh
✓ White-faced Ibis	7/7/04	Bodega Harbor	SON	1	AWgh
Crested Caracara	7/17-31/04	Walker Rd	SON	1	DN,LLu,CLu,RAR, BBU, mob Photo AWgh First co. record..
Swainson's Hawk	8/2/04	Hwy 113 6 mi n I-5/	SOL	90	KWi,BOI
Black Rail	7/5/04	Skaggs Island Rd	NAP	1	AWgh Heard only
✓ Semipalmated Plover	6/9/04	Bodega Harbor	SON	3	LHg
Black Oystercatcher	8/6/04	Bodega Head	SON	1 nest	LHg - Brand new hatchlings
✓ Solitary Sandpiper	4/22/04	Channel Dr., Annadel SP	SON	1	AWgh
✓ Willet	6/5/04	Bodega Harbor	SON	350	RS
Spotted Sandpiper	5/5/04	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	AWgh
✓ Whimbrel	6/5-9/04	Bodega Harbor	SON	1	RS, LHg
✓ Bar-tailed Godwit	7/6/04	Bodega Harbor	SON	1	Ryan Terrill No details .
✓ Marbled Godwit	6/5/04	Bodega Harbor	SON	1470	RS
✓ Surfbird	7/29/04	Bodega Harbor	SON	352	RS
✓ Red Knot	6/9/04	Bodega Harbor	SON	1	LHg
✓ Sanderlings	7/29/04	Bodega Harbor	SON	1100	RS high numbers
Semipalmated Sandpiper	8/15/04	Albany mudflats	ALA	1ad	RAR
✓ Red-necked Stint	8/8-10/04	Salmon Creek mouth	SON	1	DDe, JMR,JWh County record. Details received.
Little Stint	8/15/04	Albany mudflats	ALA	1 ad	RAR
Baird's Sandpiper	7/29/04	Doran Entrance Pond	SON	4	RS
Baird's Sandpiper	8/6-12/04	Salmon Creek	SON	1juv	GGf
Baird's Sandpiper	8/15/04	Albany mudflats	ALA	1juv	RAR
Wilson's Phalarope	7/30/04	Carmody Road Pond	SON	1 imm	CLO
Little Gull	6/10/04	Pescadero Marsh	San Mateo	1	AWgh, BDP
Laughing Gull	6/10/04	Pescadero Marsh	San Mateo	1	AWgh, BDP
Franklin's Gull	6/10/04	Pescadero Marsh	San Mateo	1	AWgh, BDP
✓ Franklin's Gull	6/5-9/04	Bodega Harbor	SON	1	RS, RLeb, LHg alternate plumage
Elegant Tern	7/7/04	Bodega Harbor	SON	1	AWgh
✓ Black Skimmer	8/8/04	Doran Park	SON	1	DDe
✓ Long-billed Murrelet	7/7/04	offshore Sonoma coast	SON	2 adult	Ryan Terrill -pictures taken
✓ Marbled Murrelet	7/3/04	off Gualala River mouth	SON	1	AWgh, Eli breeding plumage
✓ Rhinoceros Auklet	7/3/04	off Gualala River mouth	SON	1	ELi, AWgh
✓ Vaux's Swift	7/31/04	Kenwood	SON	50+	RAR large numbers
✓ Vaux's Swift	7/04	Rincon Valley SR	SON	5 nestlings	Marilyn Jones - in chimney
✓ Nuttall's Woodpecker	8/8/04	Owl Canyon	SON	1	BBU
✓ Willow Flycatcher	8/15/04	Colgan Creek	SON	1	IM, KWi, BOI, JF, LD
Loggerhead Shrike	8/15/04	Colgan Creek	SON	1	IM, KWi, BOI, JF, LD
✓ Cassin's Vireo	8/8/04	Owl Canyon	SON	1	BBU
✓ Yellow-billed Magpie	6/8/04	Craig Ave, El Verano	SON	1	Lang Stevenson
Western Bluebird	7/12/04	Santa Rosa	SON	3 adults	Marilyn Jones

(Continued on Page 5)

Observations (continued)

Orange-crowned Warbler	8/8/04	Owl Canyon	SON	4	BBu
Wilson's Warbler	8/16/04	Owl Canyon	SON	4	BBu
✓Rose-breasted Grosbeak	6/19/04	Russian Gulch	SON	1m	LHg, GGf
✓Rose-breasted Grosbeak	7/5/04	Sebastopol	SON	1m	Arthur Slater to BBu
✓Rose-breasted Grosbeak	7/22-24/04	Santa Rosa	SON	1f imm	Thelma Miller to BBu at feeder
✓Grasshopper Sparrow	6/19/04	Carmody Road	SON	1	AWgh - heard only
✓Great-tailed Grackle	6/8/04	Rooster Run Golf Course	SON	1 pr	RLeb
Great-tailed Grackle	7/5-14/04	Rooster Run Golf Course	SON	4	AWgh one ad. male, one imm.

Observers:

Betty Burrige, Dave DeSante, Liz Donach, John Ferrari, George Griffith, Lisa Hug, Marilyn Jones, Rick Lebaudour, Leslie and Cindy Lieurance, Calvin Lou, Thelma Miller, Ian Morrison, Dan Nelson, Becky Olsen, Benjamin "Mike" D. Parmeter, Jean M. Richmond, Ruth A. Rudesill, Doug Shaw, Arthur Slater, Rich Stallcup, Lang Stevenson, Ryan Terrill, Jim White, Alan Wight, and Ken Wilson

RROS Report Of Finances for the year

2003-2004

Beginning bank balance, 7-1-03 \$3,904

Receipts

Dues	\$1,037	
Book sales	602	
Donations	71	
Books: shipping, handling, tax	22	
Total receipts for year		\$1,734

Disbursements

Kite Tales newsletter	661	
Guest speakers	657	
Field trip supplies: radios	138	
Sales tax & shipping: books	62	
Meeting & other supplies	55	
Secretary of State filing	20	
Total disbursements for year		\$1,593

Excess receipts over disbursements +141

Ending Bank Balance, 6-30-04 \$4,045

Michael F. Nelligan, Treasurer

Redwood Region Ornithological Society 2004-2005- Officers/Board of Directors

President	Ian Morrison	905 Adobe Canyon Rd., Kenwood CA 95452	ian@svn.net	833-2065
Vice President	Lisa Hug	507 N. Main St., Sebastopol CA 95472	lisahug@earthlink.net	824-1067
Secretary	Deyea Harper	2310 Northwood Dr., Santa Rosa CA 95404		542-1542
Treasurer	Mike Nelligan	4663 Sullivan Way, Santa Rosa 95409	mnbudvymn@sonic.net	539-1897

Committee Chairs

Field Trips	Alan Wight		shwand@sonic.net	763-8572
Observations	Ruth Rudesill	PO Box 371 Kenwood CA 95452	rar@pcweb.net	833-6026
Christmas Count	Ken Ackerman	477 Oakbrook Ct., Santa Rosa CA 95409		538-2038
Kite Tales	Betty Burrige	1653 Arroyo Sierra Way, Santa Rosa CA 95405	bandm@monitor.net	527-0225

Kite Tales Deadlines:

*Submit all announcements, articles, trivia, letters etc, for October issue to Ruth Rudesill.

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 a one-year membership. Send dues to RRROS 4663 Sullivan Way, Santa Rosa CA 95409.

CALENDAR

- Sept. 11 Potluck Meeting 5:00 p. m.
- Sept. 15 “The Swifts are coming”
- Sept. 20 *Observations and Kite Tales dead-
- Sept. 25 Field Trip line
- Oct. 14 General Meeting
- Oct. 23 Field Trip
- Nov 18-21 Central Valley Birding Symposium

HAVE YOU EVER ATTENDED THE CENTRAL VALLEY BIRDING SYMPOSIUM?

Try it, you’ll like it! Nov. 18-21 at the Radison Hotel in Stockton. Great field trips, workshops, and speakers. Contact <http://cvbs.org> or call Frances Oliver (209) 369-2010.

**Kite Tales
1653 Arroyo Sierra Way
Santa Rosa CA 95405**

September 2004



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