



Kite Tales

Volume 39 Number III

November 2004

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES FOR THE YEAR '04 – '05 YET?

Please review the mailing label on this issue of KITE TALES. If your dues status is highlighted, RROS records indicate that your current dues have not been received and this is the last issue you will receive. Dues should be paid before publication of the December issue to continue your membership and subscription to the KTs.

Dues are \$15 for a family, \$8 for an individual. Why not pay for 2 years and avoid the nuisance of writing small checks? Make checks payable to RROS and mail to the treasurer.

Coming Attractions

Thursday, Nov. 11 – 7:30 p.m.- General Meeting- at the Administration Building of the Laguna Wastewater Treatment Plant, 4100 Llano Rd., S. R.

Directions: from Hwy 101 take Hwy 116 West toward Sebastopol. Turn right (north) on Llano Rd. and go ~ 1 mile to open gate on right. Proceed to Admin. Bldg at SE corner of the plant.

PROGRAM **“Birds of the Cordell Banks “**

PRESENTED BY **RICH STALLCUP**, Naturalist for PRBO's Education and Outreach Program, birder par excellence, and longtime friend of RROS.

Please Note! If past performance can predict future results, this program promises to be informative, authoritative, interesting, and very, very entertaining. Don't miss it.

Why not plan to be at the no-host pre-meeting dinner- 6PM-ish at Mary's Pizza Parlor, 101 Golf Course Dr., Rohnert Park? It's a great chance to meet Rich, chat with old friends and meet new people. Ask for the 'Bird Club'.

MORE COMING ATTRACTIONS**Saturday, November 6 – Field Trip to the Sonoma Coast**

Meet at Bridgehaven Pond (at the intersection of Highways 1 and 116 along the Russian River) at 8:30 a.m. Park off the road in the dirt area. We will bird the area around the Russian River and then make our way down the coast towards Bodega Harbor. Bring binoculars, 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.

November 18-21 – Central Valley Birding Symposium in Stocton. Great field trips, workshops and speakers. For info: call Frances Oliver (209) 369-2010 or <http://www.cvbs.org/> It's not too late to register.

Sunday, Dec. 19th – Santa Rosa Christmas Bird Count

Start recruiting your team members. Ken Ackerman needs email addresses of all participants. Contact him, PLEASE, at markandack@AOL.com. See article on Page 6 for details.

Point Reyes Field Trip Report - September 25, 2004

We were a week too early for vagrants this year, but saw a nice collection of birds in fairly good weather (except for the lighthouse parking lot). Highlights were a White-winged Scoter and several Elegant Terns at the Fish Docks, at least five Barn Owls at Drakes Beach, a nicely-seen fly-by Common Tern at Inverness, and a good collection of land birds at Mt. Vision Road. The field trip participants were Bob Battagin, Ted Eliot, Don Howard, Don Kirker, Shirl Maxson, Tom Maxson, Don McCarthy, Don Reinberg, Ruth Rudesill, and Alan Wight.

Birds observed: Pacific Loon, Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, American White Pelican, Brown Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Turkey Vulture, Gadwall, Mallard, Cinnamon Teal, Green-winged Teal, Greater Scaup, Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, California Quail, Virginia Rail, Sora, American Coot, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Willet, Marbled Godwit, Least Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Heermann's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, Western Gull, Elegant Tern, Common Tern, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Band-tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Northern Flicker, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Hutton's Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Steller's Jay, Western Scrub-Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Bewick's Wren, Winter Wren, Marsh Wren, Wrentit, European Starling, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Tricolored Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch.

Alan Wight

Bodega Harbor Field Trip Report - October 16, 2004

Seventeen of us enjoyed a cool October day of birding at Bodega Harbor. Highlights were one Red-necked Grebe, a few Buller's Shearwaters far off Bodega Head, a few large flocks of Surf Scoters flying south, a nice collection of shorebirds at high tide including three Red Knots and several Surfbirds, two immature Pigeon Guillemots, one Red-breasted Nuthatch, and the continuing immature Common Moorhen at Hole-in-the-Head. The field trip participants were Sharon Audiss,

Jim Castle, Ted Eliot, Betty Groce, Deyea Harper, Jack Harper, Louise Johnston, Rick LeBaudour, Shirl Maxson, Tom Maxson, Don McCarthy, Dan Nelson, Mike Parmeter, Rhio Reigh, Don Toms, Jean Tonascia, and Alan Wight.

Birds observed: Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Clark's Grebe, Buller's Shearwater, American White Pelican, Brown Pelican, Brandt's Cormorant, Double-crested Cormorant, Pelagic Cormorant, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Turkey Vulture, Mallard, Greater Scaup, Surf Scoter, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, White-tailed Kite, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, California Quail, Virginia Rail, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Black-bellied Plover, Snowy Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Black Oystercatcher, Willet, Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, Black Turnstone, Surfbird, Red Knot, Sanderling, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitcher, Jaeger sp., Bonaparte's Gull, Heermann's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, Herring Gull, Western Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Barn Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Black Phoebe, Hutton's Vireo, Western Scrub-Jay, Common Raven, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Bewick's Wren, Marsh Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Wrentit, European Starling, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, California Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch.

Alan Wight

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OOPS! A typo in the September '04 Kite Tales gave the wrong web address for Alan Wight's wonderful picture gallery of the Kern River Reserve trip in June. My apologies!(ed) Try http://www.sonic.net/~shwand/kern_2004/kern_2004.htm

RUTH RUDESILL graciously stepped up to be guest editor of the October issue of the Kite Tales, while your new editor was off birding in Ireland. Good job, Ruth. Thanks for saving me.

MANY THANKS to Don McCarthy and Don Howard for especially generous donations to our treasury.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE to help with the Petaluma Wetlands Association's Shollenberger Park Bird Survey. All serious birders are encouraged to contact Gerald Moore 763-3577 or glmemoore@comcast.net if they are willing to participate.

Observations – Ruth Rudesill

Bird Species	Date	Location	Co.	#	Observers
Greater White-fronted Goose	10/10/04	Bodega farm pond	SON	1 imm	AW
Blue-winged Teal	9/24/04	Petaluma Sewer Ponds	SON	5	BDP,AW, RLe
Parkinson's Petrel	10/11/04	offshore in SON or	MRN	1	DSH, mob first North Pacific record
White-faced Ibis	10/10/04	Carmody Road pond	SON	1 imm	AW
Cattle Egrets	10/10/04	Schoolhouse Road	SON.	15+	LT
Ferruginous Hawk	9/26/04	Hawk Hill	MRN	1	AW
Ferruginous Hawk	10/2-3/04	road to Fish Docks, PR	MRN	1	AW, RAR, mob, BDP, ELi imm dark morph
Ferruginous Hawk	10/10/04	Bay Hill Road	SON	1 imm	AW
Broad-winged Hawk	9/26/04	Hawk Hill	MRN	4+	AW, mob 1 adult dark morph
Broad-Winged Hawk	10/6/04	Bay Hill Road	SON	1	DN
Mountain Quail	9/24-27/04	King Ridge Rd	SON	3	BDP,AW,RLe,TE
Common Moorhen	10/13/04	Hole in the Head pond	SON	1imm	BDP,DHo
Snowy Plover	10/30/4	Doran Park	SON	51	PL high #
Golden-plover sp.	9/24/04	Salmon Creek mouth	SON	1	AW, BDP,RLe
Pacific Golden-Plover	10/2-8/04	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	AW
Stilt Sandpiper	10/22/04	sw corner Bodega Harbort	SON	1	GF
Pectoral Sandpiper	10/13/04	entry pond / Doran Park	SON	1	reported by DF
Ruff	10/9/04	Alviso	SCL	1	AW,mob
Common Tern	9/25/04	Inverness	MRN	1	AW, RR0S
Marbled Murrelet	9/24/04	off Russian River	SON	5	BDP,AW, RLe
Greater Roadrunner	10/9/04	Alviso Marina	SCL	11	AW,mob continuing
Long-eared Owl.	10/10/04	Drakes Beach	MRN	1	KWi, BOI
An unusual sighting at Drakes Beach under the pines above the monument, was recently dead (still warm to the touch)					
Burrowing Owl	10/3/04	Bodega Head	SON	1	RMa
Black-backed Woodpecker	10/9/04	Warner Valley Rd	PLU	1 f	RLe
15 miles NW of the town of Chester on Lake Amador					
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	10/10/04	Fish Docks	MRN	1imm	KWi, BOI
Nuttall's Woodpecker	10/13/04	Owl Canyon	SON	1	BDP, DHo
Tropical Kingbird	10/1-3/04	Cheney Gulch	SON	2	DN,GMa, DH, KMu
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	10/2-3/04	Fish Docks, Pt Reyes	MRN	1	AW,RR, JW, ELI, BDP, mob
Willow Flycatcher	9/24/04	bridge on Austin Cr	SON	1	BDP,AW,mob
Least Flycatcher	10/9/04	Fish Docks, Pt Reyes	MRN	1	D&PBr, RR
Magpie -Pica (sp)	9/27-30/04	Owl Canyon	SON	1	AW, BDP, TE
Loggerhead Shrike	10/3/04	Laguna area	SON	1	IM, KWi, JK, CW
Violet-green Swallow	9/24/04	along King Ridge Rd	SON	100s	BDP,AW,RLe
Blue-headed Vireo	10/1/04	Owl Canyon	SON	1	DN
American Redstart	9/30-10/6/04	Owl Canyon	SON	2-3	AW, DN, DHo, RR, BDP, TE
American Redstart	10/1/04	Hole-in-the-Head	SON	1	DN, BDP
Chestnut-sided Warbler	9/30-10/3/04	Owl Canyon	SON	1	AW, DN, BDP
Chestnut-sided Warbler	10/2/04	Mendoza Ranch, PR	MRN	1	AW, RR, mob
Chestnut-sided Warbler	10/3/04	Drakes Beach, PR	MRN	1	AW, ELi, BDP, mob
Northern Waterthrush	9/30-10/1/04	Bodega Marine Lab ent	SON	1	DN, BDP
Blackpoll Warbler	9/30-10/1/04	Bodega Marine Lab ent	SON	1	DN, BDP
Blackpoll Warbler	10/5/04	Owl Canyon	SON	1	BDP, DHo
Magnolia Warbler	10/1-3/04	north of Owl Canyon	SON	1	DN, BDP
Magnolia Warbler	10/3-6/04	Bodega Marine Lab ent	SON	1	RAR, RMa, BDP, TE
Magnolia Warbler	10/3-4/04	Campbell Cove	SON	1m	RAR, DN, AW
Magnolia Warbler	10/2/04	Fish Docks, Pt Reyes	MRN	1	AW, mob
Canada Warbler	10/2/04	Mendoza Ranch, PR	MRN	1	AW, RR, mob
Blk-throated Blue Warbler	10/3/04	Bodega Marine Lab Ent	SON	1	DN
Black-throated Blue Warbler	10/2/04	Fish Docks, Pt Reyes	MRN	1	AW, mob
Black & White Warbler	10/2-3/04	Owl Canyon	SON	1	DN, TE, BDP

Black-and-white Warbler	10/2/04	Fish Docks, Pt Reyes	MRN	1	AW,mob
Prairie Warbler	10/3/04	Mendoza Ranch, PR	MRN	1	ELi, BDP, AW
Tennessee Warbler	10/3/04	Lighthouse trees,PR	MRN	1	BDP,AW, ELi
Nashville Warbler	10/1-5/04	Owl Canyon	SON	2	DN, BDP, DHo
Nashville Warbler	10/3/04	Laguna area	SON	1	IM, KWi, JK, CW
Hermit Warbler	10/1/04	Bodega Marine Lab entrance	SON	1	DN
Palm Warbler	10/3-604	Bodega Marine Lab entrance	SON	1	RAR, DN
Palm Warbler	10/10/04	Fish Docks	MRN	1	KWi, BOI
Palm Warbler	10/3/04	Mendoza Ranch, PR	MRN	1	ELi, BDP, AW
Mourning Warbler	10/3/04	Mendoza Ranch, PR	MRN	1	ELi, BDP, AW
California Thrasher	10/3/04	Ragle Ranch, Sebastopol	SON	1	KAc,GMa
Longspur (sp)	9/30-10/1/04	Hole in the Head	SON	1	DN,BDP
		likely a Lapland, flying and calling,			Hole-in-the-Head, Bodega Bay
Clay-colored Sparrow	10/9/04	So San Francisco	SMT	1	AW
Clay-colored Sparrow	10/9/04	Bayfront Park Menlo Park	SMT	1	AW
Black-headed Grosbeak	10/1/04	Santa Rosa	SON	1	PL late date
Lark Bunting	10/9/04	Bayfront Park, Menlo Park	SMT	1	AW
Yellow-headed Blackbird	9/28/04	Campbell Cove	SON	1	DN
Bobolink	10/2-3/04	Campbell Cove	SON	1	DN,RMa,RAR

Observers:

Ken Ackerman, Dennis & Patricia Braddy, Ted Eliot, George Finger, Dea Freid, Deyea Harper, David Hofmann, John Kelly, Rick Lebaudour, Peter Leveque, Eric Lichtwardt, Dan Nelson, Roger Marlowe, Gloria Markowitz, Ian Morrison, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Becky Olsen, Ruth Rudesill, Debra Shearwater, Laurence Taylor, Alan Wight, Ken Wilson, Jon Winter, and Chris Wood

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When the phone rings... I never quite know who will be calling me or what they will want to know. That's because I'm the 'General Bird Question' person listed on Madrone Audubon's answering machine. Sometimes it's just about the friendly brown birds on the patio that go "pink, pink, pink." (California Towhees) Or "When should I take down my hummingbird feeders so they will migrate south?" (Our local Anna's Hummers do not migrate and, thus, nectar feeders are appropriate year-round locally).

But one evening, July 14th to be exact, I got a call from Sonoma. This man had been observing up to 20 white owl-like birds gathering each evening in a large walnut tree about a block from the Plaza. He had checked his field guide and decided that maybe the Gyrfalcon held the closest resemblance to these birds. I've been birding for 30 years, and finally saw my first Gyrfalcon this June in Denali Park, Alaska. The thought of 20 made me smile.

But we pursued this case. He acknowledged that there possibly were dark marks on the face, but without good binoculars he was not able to give any more details. Assuming that these were raptors, my mind fixed on which gathered in groups. White-tailed Kites, of course, but only in the winter that I knew of. It was a puzzle.

So I called RROS member, Dick Ashford, in Sonoma, and asked if he would check this out. The next day I received a call with the answer to the puzzle. Dick, who lives just 2 blocks from the caller, walked over with his telescope and tripod that evening. He identified the birds as immature White-tailed Kites. Neither of us had heard of "teenager" kites meeting as a group in the middle of summer. What is more, these 'kids' were not roosting there for the night, but after a while they would fly away together.

Dick called me again in mid-October to say that this collection of Kites was still meeting nightly in the same place.

What does all this mean? One novice birder became enamored with birding and the clarity and precision of good optical equipment, and swore that he was henceforth hooked on birding. And two "hard-core" long-time birders were reminded that there is always more to learn.

Betty Burridge

SANTA ROSA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT – SUNDAY, DEC. 19 POST-COUNT POTLUCK AT WIKIUP GREENS CLUBHOUSE

Packets for area team leaders will be distributed at the RROS general meetings on November 11 and December 9. If you will be leading a team this year and will not be at either meeting, please contact Compiler Ken Ackerman (markandack@aol.com) or (707) 538-2038) to arrange for pickup or mailing of the materials.

The Post-count Potluck/compilation is once again being hosted by our long time and very generous members, Bob and Bertha Rains. Plan to arrive any time after 5, dinner is from 5:30 on, and the compilation will occur at about 6:45.

All leaders are reminded to contact and/or recruit counters for their own teams.

'AL', THE LAYSAN ALBATROSS, is due back at the main pier in Point Arena, Mendocino County again any time between mid November and early December, if he is alive and well, and ready to repeat his past behavior. This bird has been wintering at Point Arena for many years. Even though this species is considered a rare to regular visitor to California coastal waters, there is no other place on our coast line where seasick prone birders can so comfortably have a good view of this sea bird normally only seen from a rocking boat going uuup and dooown, and uuup and dooown. Be sure to stop and look for him on your next trip north on Hwy I.

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	deveah@sbcglobal.net	542-1542
Treasurer	Mike Nelligan	4663 Sullivan Way, Santa Rosa 95409	mnbudymn@sonic.net	539-1897

Committee Chairs

Field Trips	Alan Wight	1940 Bristol St., Petaluma 94954	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	markandack@aol.com	538-2038
Kite Tales	Betty Burrige	1653 Arroyo Sierra Way, Santa Rosa CA 95405	bandm@sonic.net	527-0225
Hospitality	Adeene Nelligan	29 Sequoia Circle, Santa Rosa CA 95401		523-1116

Kite Tales Deadlines:

Submit Observations to Ruth Rudesill by the 20th of the month.

Submit all other announcements, articles, trivia, letters etc. to Betty Burrige by the 25th of the month

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