



Kite Tales

Volume 41 Number 2

October 2005

GENERAL MEETING – OCT. 13, 7:30 P. M.

AN ALASKAN ADVENTURE:
FROM PRUDHOE BAY TO PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND

A stunning slideshow with factual and informative narrative about Alaska's varied habitats, landscapes, wildlife, resources and mosquitoes.

by BRYANT & DIANE HICHWA, & BETTY BURRIDGE

Directions: From Hwy 101 take Hwy 116 West toward Sebastopol. Turn right (north) on Llano Rd. and go ~ 1 mile to **Laguna Wastewater Treatment Plant at 4300 Llano Rd, Santa Rosa**. Look for an open gate on right. Proceed to Administration. Bldg. at SE corner of the plant.

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Calendar:

Oct. 17, Mon. 7:30 p. m. Madrone Audubon Society General Meeting at the First Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa. **Program: "Audubon California's Conservation Plan through 2010"**

Oct. 23, Sun. 8:00 a. m. RROS Field trip to Bodega Harbor - Details on page 2.
Please note change of date

Nov. 5, Sat. 8:30 a.m. RROS Field trip to the Sonoma Coast - Details on page 2.

Nov. 10, 13, Thurs. RROS General Meeting – Program to be announced.

Nov. 17 – 20 Central Valley Bird Symposium, Stockton, details at <http://cvbs.org>

Sunday

Saturday, October 23 – Field Trip to Bodega Harbor Note new date

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.

Saturday, November 5 – 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

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**Point Reyes Field Trip Report
September 17, 2005**

We saw a few western migrants, but the two or three Chestnut-sided Warblers at the Mendoza Ranch were the only vagrants that we found. Also of interest were 24+ banana slugs along the path to the lighthouse trees. The field trip participants were Sharon Audiss, Carol Brant, Bob Cermak, Jim Clegg, Rigdon Currie, Ted Eliot, Betty Groce, Rick Le Baudour, Gloria Markowitz, Don McCarthy, Karen Nagel, Mike Parmeter, Don Reinberg, Shirley Spina, Don Toms, Marilyn Toms, Jean Tonascia, and Alan Wight.

Birds observed (54 species): Pied-billed Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Turkey Vulture, Gadwall, Mallard, Cinnamon Teal, Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, California Quail, American Coot, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Willet, Least Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Heermann's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, Western Gull, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Western Wood-Pewee, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Warbling Vireo, Common Raven, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Winter Wren, Marsh Wren, Western Bluebird, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Tricolored Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Purple Finch, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

Alan Wight

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Sonoma County Is lucky to have **two excellent birding websites**. Check out both of them.
WWW.RROS.ORG and Madrone's HTTP://AUDUBON.SONOMA.NET

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Member Jon Winter writes, in response to a recent report of a wayward juvenile Common Moorhen consorting on a Bodega Harbor mudflat with Marbled Godwits, "Moorhens are known to indulge in "funny weeds" they find here and there. It does not surprise especially since they were renamed from the more appropriate Gallinule. They have never been the same since."
NO COMMENT (Ed.)

AL THE ALBATROSS OF PT. ARENA – CALIFORNIA
Ron and Phyllis Storey

On February 17, 1994, a Laysan Albatross was first reported in Point Arena Cove at Point Arena, California (about two hours north of Bodega Bay on Highway 1). The "discoverers" were Todd Easterla and Jim Booker. Anecdotal information indicates that the bird was re-discovered on Nov 30, 1994 by a visiting birder, possibly M. Martin. M. Martin's observation of the bird may have been the first citing that alerted local Mendocino County birders of the bird's presence in the area. Birder Jerry White, from Lake County, confirmed the bird on December 2, 1994 after hearing the report on the Rare Bird Alert recording.

After the original, confirmed sighting of the bird, it returned to the Point Arena cove for the next 12 years being easily observed from a short pier on the south side of town (see below for directions). The bird may have been using the Arena Cove in years prior to its discovery but simply went unnoticed and/or unreported.

The following is a chronology of the bird's known presence in the Pt. Area Cove:

- First known citing: 27 Feb 1994 (Easterla & Booker)
- Report of two birds in synchronized courtship flight during period: 30 Nov 1994 to 27 March 1995
- Third year: 5 Dec 1995 to 14 March 1996.
- Fourth year: 3 Dec 1996 to 26 March 1997.
- Fifth year: 27 Nov 1997 to 8 Mar 1998.
- Sixth year: 12 Dec 1998 to 21 Mar 1999.
- Seventh year: 4 Dec 1999 to 12 Feb 2000 with a "fly by the cove" on 2 April 2000 as observed by George Chaniot (possibly, but unconfirmed, as the same bird).
- Eighth Year: 26 Nov 2000 to 26 Feb 2001.
- Ninth year: 28 Nov 2001 to 24 Mar 2002.
- Tenth year: 21 Nov 2002 to 12 Mar 2003.
- Eleventh year: 25 Nov 2003 to 28 Feb 2004.
- Twelfth year: 28 Nov 2004 to post Feb 2005.

(The above information was taken from a post on the Yahoo Discussion Group "Mendocino Birds" written by Robert J. Keiffer, Principal Supt. Of Agriculture, UC Hopland Research & Extension Center

We have no information about when this bird was first given a name, but this Albatross is now generally known as "Al" or "Al the Albatross", and he now has become an unofficial mascot of the Town of Point Arena. If you have never seen an Albatross, a trip to Pt. Area would be well worth your while, especially if you tend to get sick on pelagic trips. Although we have been very successful in finding this bird on most of my trips to the Point Arena Cove from December through February, reports estimate that you have a 50/50 chance of seeing it, and you never know what time of day it will arrive or leave. The best strategy is to plan on staying the day and checking back at the cove every couple of hours throughout the day. We have found that the locals who fish from the pier are very helpful in providing information regarding when the bird was last seen.

This is a great place to visit during the winter months if you can plan your trip for a good weather day. The Point Arena Lighthouse is a picturesque place to visit, and from the point you can observe many pelagic birds with the help of a good spotting scope. If you go further north 35 miles you will arrive to the town of Mendocino where the television show *Murder She Wrote* was filmed. Here you can see Longspurs, and just south (about two miles) of Mendocino is Van Damme State Park is where you can find Gray Jay. If you continue north of Mendocino (about 11 miles) to Mackerricker State Park, you will have a chance of seeing Rock Sandpiper and Harlequin Duck.

Directions to Point Arena Cove from Highway 1, Point Arena:

1. At the south end of town go west (towards the ocean) on Iverson Ave.
2. Stay on Iverson until it dead-ends at a pier (park you car here).

Observations – Summer & September 2005

Ruth Rudesill

Bird Species	Date	Location	Co.	#	Observers
✓ Emperor Goose	9/22/05	Acatel Pond, north Petaluma	SON	1	SBI
✓ Snow Goose	9/22-25/05	Acatel Pond, north Petaluma	SON	1	SBI, ph RSt
Ross's Goose	9/1/05	Lucchesi Park	SON	1	BDP
Canada Goose	9/18/05	west Santa Rosa	SON	1	RAR
Leucistic – all tan white with flock of normal geese					
✓ Blue-winged Teal	9/19/05	Shollenberger Park	SON	3 f	BDP, TE
✓ Green-winged Teal	8/20/05	Sea Ranch	SON	2 f	LSt
✓ Red-Breasted Merganser	8/27-9/5/05	Bodega Harbor	SON	1 f	RSt, BDP, TE, AWgh
✓ Pacific Loon	8/27 to 9/25/05	Bodega Harbor	SON	1	RRh, WP, RAR
Dark-rumped Petrel	8/21/05	Cordell Bank	MRN	1	RS, BDP, AWgh
Sooty Shearwater	8/21/05	Cordell Bank	SON/MRN		10000+ BDP, RS, mob
American White Pelican	7/16/05	Bucchli Station	NAP	100	BDP
✓ Cattle Egret	9/19-23/05	High Sch Rd Sebastopol	SON	7	BDP, TE, DSh
✓ White-tailed Kite	9/21/05	City of Sonoma	SON	15+	AC
Birds roosted in tree together overnight					
Bald Eagle	5/21/05	Lake Hennessy	NAP	1 ad	BDP
✓ Broad-winged Hawk	9/19/05	Duncan Mills	SON	1	BDP, TE
✓ Broad-winged Hawk	9/23/05	Bay Hill Rd	SON	1	DHo
Swainson's Hawk	9/9/05	Napa Airport	NAP	2	BDP
✓ Common Black Hawk	5/17/05	west of end Delta Pond	SON	1	BDP
Golden Eagle	8/26/05	Chenel Gulch	SON	1 ad	BOI, KWl
Golden Eagle	9/24/05	Bay Hill Rd	SON	3-4	LHg, RAR
✓ Merlin (dark)	9/18/05	over Campbell Cove	SON	1	RLe, RM, RAR
Peregrine Falcon	9/7/05	Campbell Cove	SON	1	BDP anatum
✓ Pacific Golden-Plover	9/3-19/05	Shollenberger Park	SON	4-6	AWgh, BDy, BDP, RSt
✓ Clapper Rail	9/11/05	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	AWgh, LHug heard only
Virginia Rail	9/20/05	Foothill Reg Park, Windsor	SON	1	DSh <i>young (new?)</i>
✓ Snowy Plover	8/28/05	Doran Park	SON	5	RSt
Common Moorhen	9/25/05	on Bodega Harbor	SON	1 juv	BBu, MN
American Avocet	7/16/05	Bucchli Station	NAP	500+	BDP
✓ American Avocet	9/20/05	Doran Pond	SON	2	DF
✓ Wandering Tattler	9/7-19/05	Bodega Head	SON	2-4	BDP, mob
Red Knot	8/27-9/5/05	Bodega Harbor	SON	4	RSt, BDP, TE
Red Knot	9/19/05	Spud Point	SON	2	BDP, TE
Dunlin	7/16/05	Bucchli Station	NAP	1 alt	BDP early
✓ Dunlin	9/19/05	Bodega Harbor	SON	1-2	BDP, DF
Spotted Sandpiper	8/31/05	Shollenberger Park	SON	1 juv	AWgh
✓ Pectoral Sandpiper	8/21/05	Doran Park	SON	1	LHg
Baird's Sandpiper	8/14/05	Bucchli Station	SON	1 juv	BDP
Lesser Yellowlegs	9/4/05	Shollenberger Park	SON	2-4	AWgh, RSt, BDP
Red-necked Phalarope	8/26/05	Bodega Harbor	SON	2	BOI, KWl
Common Tern	9/18/05	Porto Bodega	SON	1	BDP
✓ Elegant Tern	9/7/05	Dotan Park	SON	5	BDP
✓ Black Skimmer	8/21/05	Bodega Harbor	SON	1	AWgh, BDP
Xantu's Murrelet	8/21/05	Cordell Bank	SON	2	BDP, RS
Western Screech Owl	8/9/05	Napa yard	NAP	1	BDP calling
Saw-whet Owl	9/19/05	Willow Creek Rd	SON	1	BDP, TE
✓ Black Swift	9/13/05	Shiloh Reg Park	SON	1	DSh
✓ Vaux's Swift	5/27/05	Stewarts Point- in chimney	SON	2	BDP
Vaux's Swift	9/16/05	Rio Lindo Academy Healdsburg	SON	7000+	DSh, mob
✓ Eurasian Collared-Dove	8/20-21/05	SE of Petaluma	SON	2	Rle, AWgh, BDP
Greater Roadrunner	5/4/05	Leeville Rd	COL	1	BDP

✓ Yellow-billed Cuckoo	9/17-18/05	near Owl Canyon	SON	1	LLu, CLu, DN BDP, AW, mob
Only third modern record - in euc trees in corner by Marine Lab entrance - well seen and photographed					
✓ Red-breasted Sapsucker	5/29/05	Valley Crossing	SON	1	BDP
✓ Willow Flycatcher	8/26-9/05/05	Owl Canyon	SON	2	BOI, KW, BDP, TE
✓ Willow Flycatcher	9/8/05	Owl Canyon	SON	1	LHg, RAR
✓ Willow Flycatcher	9/15/05	Owl Canyon	SON	1	BDP
✓ Tropical Kingbird	9/18/05	Sea Ranch	SON	1	LSt
✓ Tropical Kingbird	9/24-25/05	Bodega Head	SON	1	LA, RAR, LHg mob
✓ Cassin's Kingbird	4/30/05	Crestview Park Vallejo	SOL	1	BDP, AWgh, DHo
✓ Philadelphia Vireo	9/13/05	Owl Canyon	SON	1	AWgh, DF, DHo, DN
✓ Red-eyed Vireo	9/16/05	Hole-in-the-Head	SON	1	AWgh, BDP, DN
✓ Cassin's Vireo	9/8-13/05	Owl Canyon	SON	1-3	BDP
✓ Purple Martin	5/25/05	Pine Flat Rd	SON	1	BDP
✓ Purple Martin	5/29/05	Gualala River	SON	18+	BDP
✓ Purple Martin	6/22/05	Little Sulfur Creek	SON	2	BDP, DHo
✓ Purple Martin	7/20/05	Little Sulfur Creek	SON	2-4	BDP, DHo
✓ Purple Martin	8/17/05	Pine Flat Rd	SON	2	BDP
✓ Red-breasted Nuthatch	8/16/05	Owl Canyon	SON	1	BDP, DHo
✓ Northern Mockingbird	5/29/05	Sea Ranch	SON	1	BDP
✓ Chestnut-sided Warbler	9/22-23/05	Owl Canyon	SON	1-2	DN, BOI, KW
✓ Chestnut-sided Warbler	9/17/05	Mendoza Ranch	SON	3	BDP
✓ Magnolia Warbler	9/5/05	Hole-in-the-Head	SON	1	AWgh, BDP
✓ Blackburnian Warbler	9/4/05	Mendoza trees-Pt Reyes	MRN	1 m	RAR, mob
✓ Blackburnian Warbler	9/15/05	Bodega Marine Lab	SON	1 m	BDP, DN
✓ Prairie Warbler	9/11/05	Owl Canyon	SON	1	AWg, BDP, TE
✓ Prairie Warbler	9/13-18/05	Bodega Marine Lab	SON	1	KW, DN, BDP.mob
✓ Black & White Warbler	9/22/05	Campbell Cove	SON	1 imm	DN
✓ Black & White Warbler	9/18-23/05	Owl Canyon	SON	1 imm	DN, BDP, mob
✓ American Redstart	8/2/805	Bodega Head	SON	1 imm	SBI
✓ American Redstart	9/4/05	Drakes Monument -Pt Reyes	SON	1 f	RAR
✓ American Redstart	9/13-18/05	Owl Canyon	SON	2 imm	AWgh, BDP, RAR
✓ American Redstart	9/16/05	Campbell Cove	SON	1 m	BDP, DN
✓ American Redstart	9/8/05	Owl Canyon	SON	1 m	LHg, RAR
✓ Palm Warbler	9/20/05	Sonoma State Univ	SON	1	GMu
✓ Nashville Warbler	8/26/05	Wright's Beach	SON	1	LHg
✓ Northern Waterthrush	9/16-22/05	Campbell Cove	SON	1	DN, BDP, AWgh
✓ MacGillivray's Warbler	9/18/05	near Owl Canyon	SON	1	AWgh
✓ Hooded Warbler	9/8-11/05	Bodeag Dunes SP	SON	1 f	DN, BDP, TE, AW
✓ Great-tailed Grackle	4/30/05	Crestview Park Vallejo	SOL	1 m	BDP, AWgh, DHo
✓ Bullock's Oriole	9/15/05	Campbell Cove	SON	1 f	BDP, DN
✓ Red Crossbill	6/22/05	Little Sulfur Creek	SON	7	BDP, DHo
✓ Red Crossbill	8/17/05	Pine Flat Rd	SON	1	BDP
✓ Red Crossbill	9/22/05	Cheney Gulch	SON	3-4	DN
✓ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	9/13-17/05	Owl Canyon	SON	1 imm	AWgh, DN, mob

Observers: Sara Blauman, Betty Burridge, Anthony Cermac, Bob Dyer, Ted Eliot, Dea Freid, David Hofmann, Lisa Hug, Rick LeBaudour, Leslie and Cindy Lieurance, Richard Merris, Gerry Mugele, Mike Nelligan, Dan Nelson, Becky Olsen, B.D. "Mike" Parmeter, Wendy Peterson, Rhio Reigh, Ruth Rudesill, Rich Stallcup, Lang Stevenson, Ron Storey, Alan Wight and Ken Wilson

The **Santa Rosa Christmas Bird Count will be on December 18th**.
Contact Compiler Ken Ackerman (markandack@aol.com) for details.

Redwood Region Ornithological Society 2005-2006- Officers/Board of Directors

President	Lisa Hug	507 N. Main St., Sebastopol	95472	lisahug@earthlink.net	824-1067
Vice President	Jim Castle	900 Civic Center Dr., Rohnert Park	94928	widfbio@yahoo.com	585-8617
Secretary	Rhio Reigh	1640 Austin Way, Santa Rosa	95404	rhioleigh@juno.com	579-3400
Treasurer	Jack Harper	P. O. Box 5254, Santa Rosa	95402	jharpertrustee@sbcglobal.net	542-1542

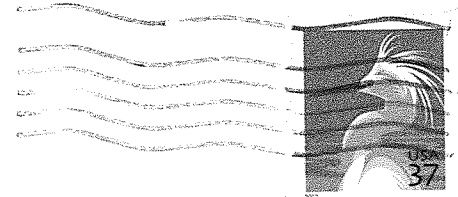
Committee Chairs

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	95409	markandack@aol.com	538-2038
Kite Tales	Betty Burrige	1653 Arroyo Sierra Way, Santa Rosa	95405	bburridge@sbcglobal.net	527-0225
Hospitality	Adeene Nelligan	29 Sequoia Circle, Santa Rosa	95401		523-1116

Kite Tales Deadlines: Submit Observations to Ruth Rudesill by October 20th, all other items to Editor Betty Burrige by October 25th

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 RROS Treasurer, Box 5254, Santa Rosa CA 95402.

Kite Tales
1653 Arroyo Sierra Way
Santa Rosa CA 95405



OCTOBER 2005



Parmeter, BD & S, Fnd. Membrs
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