



# Kite Tales

Volume 41 Number 4

Dec. 2005, Jan. 2006

**REMEMBER! KEEP THIS ISSUE UNTIL FEBRUARY 2005.**

**GENERAL MEETING – DEC. 8, 7:30 P. M.**

**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. From Hwy. 12, take Llano Rd. south about 3 miles. Plant is on left.

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**OTHER COMING ATTRACTIONS:**

December 18<sup>th</sup> – **SANTA ROSA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT** Contact Ken Ackerman at 707.538.2038/markandack@aol.com. For details, see page 6.

December 30<sup>th</sup> – **SONOMA VALLEY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT** Contact Tim Rusert [trusert@mac.com](mailto:trusert@mac.com). For details, see page 5.

January 1<sup>st</sup> – **WESTERN SONOMA COUNTY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT** Contact Joy Mander at [www.wscbc@aol.com](http://www.wscbc@aol.com). For details, see page 6.

January 7 – Field Trip to Lake Berryessa, Napa County. See article on page 2.

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**WOULD YOU LIKE INSTANTANEOUS KITE TALES DELIVERY ?**

Then ask for KITE TALES BY MAIL. Contact new Membership Chair Gwendolyn Toney at [Gwendolyn@sonomawestholdings.com](mailto:Gwendolyn@sonomawestholdings.com)

**Sonoma Coast Field Trip Report**

**November 5, 2005**

We enjoyed a beautiful fall day along the Sonoma County coast. Highlights were an adult dark-morph Ferruginous Hawk flying over Jenner, two Bald Eagles (one near Jenner, one above Willow Creek Canyon), a perched Merlin near the Russian River, a pair of Marbled Murrelets at Duncan's Landing, and, finally, the continuing female Harlequin Duck at Bodega Harbor. The field trip participants were Ken Ackerman, Sharon Audiss, Jim Castle, Dea Freid, Don Howard, Helen Kochenderfer, Heidi Le Baudour, Rick Le Baudour, Gloria Markowitz, Don McCarthy, Mike Parmeter, Don Reinberg, Phyllis Schmitt, and Alan Wight.

Birds observed (98 species): American Wigeon, Mallard, Greater Scaup, Harlequin Duck, Surf Scoter, Bufflehead, Common Merganser, California Quail, Red-throated Loon, Pacific Loon, Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Clark's Grebe, American White Pelican, Brown Pelican, Brandt's Cormorant, Double-crested Cormorant, Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, Virginia Rail, Sora, American Coot, Black-bellied Plover, Killdeer, Black Oystercatcher, Willet, Marbled Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Black Turnstone, Surfbird, Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitcher, Long-billed Dowitcher, Heermann's Gull, Mew Gull, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, Herring Gull, Western Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Marbled Murrelet, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Hutton's Vireo, Steller's Jay, Western Scrub-Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Pygmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Bewick's Wren, Winter Wren, Marsh Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Western Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Wrentit, European Starling, American Pipit, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Spotted Towhee, California Towhee, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, Purple Finch, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

Alan Wight

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**Saturday, January 7 – Field Trip to Lake Berryessa, Napa County**

Meet north of Santa Rosa at the park-and-ride on River Road just west of US101. Meeting time is 7:30 am. We will carpool from here to Lake Berryessa, where we'll explore the lake and surrounding woodlands starting at the north end. If time allows, we'll end up at Monticello Dam. Winter possibilities for this area include Bald Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Lewis's Woodpecker, Canyon Wren, and Yellow-billed Magpie. 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. Heavy rain cancels.

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**BOUVERIE PRESERVE GUIDED NATURE WALK LOTTERY FORMS**

are now available for the Spring 2006 season. Write or call to receive the form for these popular excursions into the beautiful Bouverie Preserve of Audubon Canyon Ranch in the famous Valley of the Moon. Each walk will be led by a trained docent.

Bouverie Preserve, P. O. Box 1195, Glen Ellen CA 95442 (707) 938-4554

**FOR SALE: Field Guide Art of Roger Tory Peterson**

Printed by Easton Press. Two volumes - eastern and western birds.

These are the plates for the field guides in larger format -- 11x17x2 " leather bound with gold trim. These collector's books have only been out of the box once or twice and are autographed by RTP himself. Asking \$ 300. Will donate part of the sale to RROS.

Contact: Ruth Rudesill 833-6026 or rar@pcweb.net.

**WANTED: RROS WEBSITE SALES MANAGER**

Job description: Receives and fills phone and mail orders, accounts for inventory and sales, and sends proceeds to the RROS treasurer.

Benefits: Receives profound admiration and adulation for selflessly contributing time and effort for the benefit of our organization.

Opportunity for advancement: May be considered for title of RROS General Sales Manager, which expands responsibility to include sales to local retailers and ABA. APPLY TO: lisahug@earthlink.net

**Great Backyard Bird Count - February 17-20, 2006**

Last year resulted in over 50,000 checklists submitted, over 600 species seen, and more than 6 million individual birds counted. Check website <http://www.birdsource.org/>.

**Observations November 2005**

**Ruth Rudesill**

<b>Bird Species</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Co.</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Observers</b>
✓ White-faced Ibis	10/28/05	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	BDy,ALa
✓ Cattle Egret	11/11/05	Winterhaven/Pet Hill Rd	SON	12+	GMu
✓ Greater White-fronted Goose	10/28-31/05	Doran Ent pond Park	SON	1	SBI, DF
✓ Snow Geese	11/20/05	Delta Pond	SON	5	MSM
✓ Redhead	11/12/05	Spring lake	SON	1m	KAck
✓ Blue-winged Teal	10/28/05	Shollenberger Park	SON	3	RL
✓ Harlequin Duck	11/04/05	Bodega Harbor	SON	1f	LHg
✓ Pacific Golden-plover	10/28/05	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	RL
✓ Pacific Golden-plover	11/05/05	Shollenberger Park	SON	2	RAR
✓ Mountain Quail	11/20/05	Jack London SP	SON	sev	MSM
Burrowing Owl	11/17/05	Pt Reyes NS	MRN	3	ALa
Pileated Woodpecker	11/20/05	Jack London SP	SON	1	MSM
✓ Palm Warbler	11/20/05	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	MSM
Townsend's Warbler	11/28/05	Kenwood yard	SON	1m	RAR
White-throated Sparrow	11/13/05	Kenwood yard	SON	1	RAR
Tan striped adult with white beyond lore with a buffy trailing edge to stripe					
White-throated Sparrow	11/10/05	Kehoe Beach Pt Reyes	MRN	1	DF

**Observers:** Ken Ackerman, Sara Blauman, Bob Dyer, Dea Freid Lisa Hug, Andy LaCasse, Robert Lewis, Gerry Mugele , Ruth A Rudesill

**Peregrine loses dinner to Turkey Vulture**

**as reported by Dea Freid**

On Oct 31, 2005, while birding at Doran Park, I saw a peregrine standing on a short post in the marsh eating a bird it had caught. Below it were two turkey vultures on the ground. At one point, it lost its grip on dinner and it fell to the ground. One of the vultures immediately snatched it and flew off. To my surprise, the peregrine made no attempt to get it back. It made a weak feint at the vulture that was still below it (the one that did not have the bird) but didn't pursue the vulture with dinner. After inspecting the ground for any scraps that had fallen, the peregrine flew off. I know that vultures are bigger, but I thought the peregrine would have put up more of a fight for its meal.

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Sonoma County Is lucky to have **two excellent birding websites.**

**WWW.RROS.ORG** and **HTTP://AUDUBON.SONOMA.NET**

Check out both of them

Participants are needed for a base-line **BIRD CENSUS AT THE GALBRAITH PRESERVE** which was recently gifted to Sonoma State University. The nearly 4,000 acres of wildlands are located west of Cloverdale off Hwy 128. If you are interested in volunteering for the census, please contact Becky Olsen at [olsenr@sonoma.edu](mailto:olsenr@sonoma.edu) or 775-2558

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**FYI : THE BRAND NEW SONOMA VALLEY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT** will take place Friday, Dec. 30th. Contact Tim Rusert [trusert@mac.com](mailto:trusert@mac.com) for details.

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**RROS 2005-2006- Board of Directors**

**Officers**

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

**Committee Chairs**

Field Trips	Alan Wight	1940 Bristol St., Petaluma	94954	<a href="mailto:shwand@sonic.net">shwand@sonic.net</a>	763-8572
Observations	Ruth Rudesill	PO Box 371 Kenwood CA	95452	<a href="mailto:rar@pcweb.net">rar@pcweb.net</a>	833-6026
Christmas Count	Ken Ackerman	477 Oakbrook Ct., Santa Rosa	95409	<a href="mailto:markandack@aol.com">markandack@aol.com</a>	538-2038
Kite Tales	Betty Burr ridge	1653 Arroyo Sierra Way, Santa Rosa	95405	<a href="mailto:bburridge@sbcglobal.net">bburridge@sbcglobal.net</a>	527-0225
Hospitality	Adeene Nelligan	29 Sequoia Circle, Santa Rosa	95401		523-1116
Membership	Gwendolyn Toney	1992 Windmill Cir. Santa Rosa	95403		824-2534

[Gwendolyn@sonomawestholdings.com](mailto:Gwendolyn@sonomawestholdings.com)

Kite Tales Deadlines: Submit Observations to Ruth Rudesill by January 20th, all other items to Editor Betty Burr ridge by January 25<sup>th</sup>

**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.

**THE SANTA ROSA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT** will take place on Sunday, December 18. Area team leaders may pick up packets for the count at the next RROS meeting. Those who can't make the meeting should contact the **compiler, Ken Ackerman at 707.538.2038/markandack@aol.com** to arrange for delivery of the materials. It is assumed that we will have the same area leaders as last year; Ken should be notified of any changes.

The Count dinner will be held at Mary's Pizza Shack, 535 Summerfield Rd., Santa Rosa (next to the Rialto Theatre) from 5:00 until 7:30. We have a room reserved, and extra space is available if we need it. Because we will be a single group, there will be one tab, which will be paid by the compiler. The total will include 8% sales tax and 15% gratuity; therefore, individuals will reimburse the compiler at the end of the dinner for the amount of their meal X 1.23 (8% + 15%) in cash or check (made out to Ken Ackerman). We'll have calculators available for the arithmetic.

Please Note: Mary's Pizza Shack has a \$10 per bottle corkage fee.

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**THE WESTERN SONOMA COUNTY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT** will take place on Sunday, January 1st. If you are not already signed up, or have questions please contact Compiler Joy Mander at [www.wscbc@aol.com](http://www.wscbc@aol.com) or 778-7865

**KITE TALES**

1992 Windmill Circle  
Santa Rosa CA 95403

Dec. 2005, Jan. 2006



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