



# Kite Tales

Volume 41 Number 8

MAY 2006

**See'Ya MAY 11<sup>TH</sup>, Thurs. SUGARLOAF STATE PARK**  
**for our May potluck/picnic/bird walk. Starts at 6 pm.**

**Meet at the Day Use Picnic area across from the Day Use Parking lot at the park entrance. Be sure to pay the entry fee or bring your State Parks Pass.**

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**OTHER COMING ATTRACTIONS: (See next page for details)**

May 5, 6, and 7. "America's Birdiest County" Competition

May 13, Sat. International Migratory Bird Day Event, a ½ day bird count in Sonoma Valley, Napa Valley and Petaluma Wetlands. For information contact [www.sonomabirding.org](http://www.sonomabirding.org) or phone Tom Rusert at 707 939-8007

May 15, Mon. Madrone Audubon Society Annual Meeting - 6:00 pm potluck (byo table service), 7:30 Meeting - awards and program "Our Migrating Birds and the Boreal Forest," by David Lukas. An International Migratory Bird Day event.

May 20, Sat. RROS Field trip to Geysers Road

July 7 through 10 RROS Field Trip to Kern River Preserve and surroundings

Sept. 14, Next RROS meeting. Have a good summer. See you later!

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My apologies for giving an incorrect phone # for ARNOLD KAYE, our local resource for repairing scopes and binoculars. You can reach him at 707- 763-3136

**Saturday, May 20 – RROS Field Trip to Geysers Road**

We'll search for woodland, grassland, and chaparral birds along Geysers Road northeast of Healdsburg. Possibilities include Grasshopper Sparrow, Purple Martin, Mountain Quail, California Thrasher, and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. **Meet at the first bridge on Pine Flat Road at 8:00 am.** We will drive from here to Geysers Road. Bring binoculars, 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.

**Friday, July 7 - 10 – RROS Field Trip to Kern River Preserve and Surrounding Area**

Join us for a long weekend of birding at the Kern River Preserve and surrounding area. Kern River Preserve is located about one hour's drive east of Bakersfield at the south end of the Sierra Nevada. We will be led by Bob Barnes, who is very knowledgeable about the birds and birding locations in this area and who has led our groups in the past. We will visit the Kern River Preserve (an area of extensive riparian habitat) as well as surrounding mountain and desert areas. The bird possibilities are numerous and include Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Summer Tanager, Willow Flycatcher, Indigo Bunting, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Tricolored Blackbird, Scott's Oriole, Cactus Wren, and Ladder-backed Woodpecker. For more information on this area, please visit the Audubon web site: <http://www.audubon.org/local/sanctuary/kernriver/>. Participants in this field trip may come for all four days, or for only a portion of the four days, as desired. Bob collects a fee for the trip which will be somewhere around \$75 to \$100 per person. This field trip will be limited to a maximum of approximately 20 participants in order to preserve the quality of the trip. There are a number of motels, inns, and campgrounds near the Kern River Preserve. Bob recommended the Lakeview Motel in Mountain Mesa (760-379-8250) – ask for the birders rate. Other options can be found here: <http://natureali.org/accommodations.htm>. Please contact me for more information or to sign up at [shwand@sonic.net](mailto:shwand@sonic.net) or at 763-8572 (weekdays 7-9 p.m. or weekends before 9 p.m.).

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**“AMERICA’S BIRDIEST COUNTY” COMPETITION - MAY 5, 6, and 7**

Sonoma County is registered to compete in the 6th annual contest for "America's Birdiest County" contest. We will be counting birds for 72 hours during the days and nights of May 5, 6 and 7. Go to the San Diego Audubon Society web site to read the rules: [www.sandiegoaudubon.org/birdiest.htm](http://www.sandiegoaudubon.org/birdiest.htm) There is no limit to the number of participants or to the number of teams. We do not need the total number of each species seen, just the different species, with date and location, keeping in mind that all rarities must be documented just like Christmas count data. We will need people along the coast as the "birdable area" extends one mile off shore. Our county has many great parks and trails, and backyard feeder watchers are also encouraged to submit data. Gwendolyn Toney, Membership Chairperson, and Mailing Editor of the KITE TAILS will be doing the species compilation for submission after May 7th, so all information should be sent to her at [gtoney@sonic.net](mailto:gtoney@sonic.net)

For Gwendolyn's sanity, please submit your lists in phylogenetic order (as they appear on The Sonoma County Bird Field Check List.) HINT: That field check list allows you to keep track of 10 different areas you may bird during those 3 days. At the May 11th RROS potluck meeting we can discuss the results and share interesting stories of our days in the field before the species totals are submitted.

Deyea Harper

**OBSERVATIONS** by Ruth Rudesill

April 2006

Bird Species	Date	Location	Co.	#	Observers
✓ Snow Goose	4/18/06	Ellis Creek WRF	SON	1	RAR
✓ Greater/Lesser Scaup	4/1/06	Shollenberger Park	SON	150+	AWgh
					95% Greater and 5% Lesser
✓ Tundra Swan	4/22/06	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	RSt
Wood Duck	4/21/06	Austin Creek	SON	6m	RRh
✓ White Winged Scoters	4/24/06	Bodega Harbor	SON	3	DRe
Am White Pelican	4/1/06	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	AWgh
✓ American Bittern	4/1/06	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	AWgh Calling
Osprey	4/25/06	Hwy 12 e of Kenwood	SON	1	RAR
✓ Crested Caracara	4/25/06	Pomo Trail/Shell Beach	SON	1	AWgh
Common Moorhen	4/1/06	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	AWgh
Whimbrel	4/1/06	MeadowLn x Llano Rd	SON	5	KWi
✓ Long-billed Curlew	4/1/06	MeadowLn x Llano Rd	SON	100+	KWi
✓ Long-billed Curlew	4/17/06	field on Lakeville Hwy	SON	25+	RAR
					across from Petaluma Sewer Ponds
✓ Red-necked Phalarope	4/19/06	Bird Walk Park B Bay	SON	2pr	DF
✓ Red-necked Phalarope	4/27/06	Bird Walk Park B Bay	SON	34	DF
✓ Bonaparte's Gull	4/1/06	Shollenberger Park	SON	113+	AWgh
✓ Elegant Tern	4/22/06	Shollenberger Park	SON	2	RSt
Band-tailed Pigeon	mid April	Sebastopol area	SON	40+	fide BBU
✓ Band-tailed Pigeon	mid April	Santa Rosa area	SON	400+	fide BBU
✓ Eurasian Collared Dove	4/24/06`	Bodega Hwy	SON	1	DRe
✓ Eurasian Collared-Dove	4/22/06	Eli Rd s. Petaluma	SON	2	LHg
Western Screech-owl	continuing	Nestbox in Oakmont	SON	pr	BGr
Olive-sided Flycatcher	4/18/06	Adobe Cyn Rd	SON	1	IM calling
✓ Western Wood-pewee	4/13/06	Kenwood yard	SON	1	RAR
✓ American Dipper	4/19-23/06	Austin Crk nr Camp Caz	SON	1pr	RRh, LPnest
American Pipit	4/1/06	Meadow Ln x Llano Rd	SON	sev	KWi
White-throated Sparrow	wintering	Sonoma yard	SON	1	KMu
White-throated Sparrow	4/11/06	Sonoma yard	SON	2 <sup>nd</sup> bird	KMu
White-throated Sparrow	4/13-25/06	Kenwood yard	SON	2	RAR male singing
Black-headed Grosbeak	3/29/06	Santa Rosa feeder	SON	1m	GW
✓ Painted Bunting	last 4/14/06	Sebastopol yard	SON	1m	KBi
✓ Great-tailed Grackle	4/1-7/06	Shollenberger Park	SON	2m	AWgh, BDy
					1 mature male and 1 immature male
✓ Great-tailed Grackle	4/15/06	Coleman Valley Rd	SON	1	JRRS
✓ Great-tailed Grackle	4/20/06	Rooster Run Golf Course	SON	1m	GG
Hooded Oriole	4/12/06	Santa Rosa feeder	SON	1	JT
Bullock's Oriole	4/10/06	Oakmont feeder	SON	1	BGr
Purple Finch	3/25/06	Oakmont feeder	SON	14+	BGr

Observers: Kathy Biggs, Betty Burrige, Joanie Dranginis, Bob Dyer, Dea Freid, Greg Giusti, Betty Groce, Lisa Hug, Ian Morrison, Kathy Mugele, Linda Petrulias, Don Reinburg, Rhio Reigh, Ruth Rudesill, Jeffrey RR Skrentny, Ron Storey, Jean Tonascia, Glo Wellman, Alan Wight, and Ken Wilson

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**Lets give three cheers to ALAN WIGHT for planning and leading our wonderful RROS FIELD TRIPS for Lo these many years!!!!!!**

EDITORIAL

RROS has it all. Great birders, a welcoming membership open to including a record number of new members this year, wonderful field trips, and informative and interesting programs. It also has a cadre of hard-working officers, some of whom will need respite and replacement next year. Lisa Hug has agreed to lead us as President for another year, and Jim Castle will continue as VP (Program Chair) for as long as he stays in this area. Rhio Reigh has agreed to continue as Secretary in our '06-'07 year and we are extremely pleased to have Don Howard as our new treasurer. Even Betty has a 'possible maybe' lined up to replace her as Kite Tales editor next year.

But we will be needing our "new blood" to step into leadership roles soon. Experienced former officers stand at the ready to coach. Please, start planning now to support RROS's future. As my grandmother always said, "Many hands make light work". And some new hands will make it easier for RROS to continue to have it all, and still spread the work among us.

Betty Burridge, Editor

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RROS 2005-2006- 2007Board of Directors

Officers

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 wldfbio@yahoo.com 585-8617
Secretary Rhio Reigh 1640 Austin Way, Santa Rosa 95404 rhioreigh@juno.com 579-3400
Treasurer (Through June 30, 2006) Jack Harper P. O. Box 5254, Santa Rosa 95402 jharpertrustee@sbcglobal.net 542-1542
Treasurer (July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007) Don Howard 979 Hogwarts Circle, Petaluma 94954 binkybunji@comcast.net 778-0407

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
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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

Kite Tales Deadlines: Submit Observations to Ruth Rudesill by August 20th, all other items to Editor Betty Burridge by August 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 Treasurers Harper or Howard. See above for addresses.

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Lets hear it for RUTH RUDESILL who has been recording and reporting

BIRD OBSERVATIONS for RROS for Lo these many years.

## IN SUPPORT OF RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION PLANNING FOR THE IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER

The most heartening story in bird conservation in recent times has been the announcement of the discovery of one or more Ivory-billed Woodpeckers in the Big Woods of eastern Arkansas. However, some of the optimism and goodwill resulting from that announcement have waned especially with the publication of an article in *The Auk* by Jerome Jackson (Jackson, J. A. 2006. Ivory-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*): hope, and the interfaces of science, conservation, and politics. *Auk* 123:1-15) that questions both the evidence for existence of the woodpecker and the appropriateness of the actions taken by the individuals and organizations involved in the discovery and subsequent work.

Unfortunately, this type of debate bolsters the agendas of those opposed to conservation. We at American Bird Conservancy welcome and encourage debate regarding issues of science and conservation, such as the article by David Sibley et al. and rebuttal by Fitzpatrick et al. published recently in *Science* (Sibley, D. A., L. R. Bevier, M. A. Patten, and C. S. Elphick. 2006. Comment on "Ivory-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*) Persists in Continental North America." *Science* 311:1555a; Fitzpatrick, J. W., M. Lammertink, M. D. Luneau, Jr., T. W. Gallagher, and K. V. Rosenberg. 2006. Response to Comment on "Ivory-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*) Persists in Continental North America." *Science* 311:1555b). However, we have closely followed activities of the Big Woods Conservation Partnership, and we are concerned that their work is sometimes being misrepresented. American Bird Conservancy wishes its views of this work to be on the record:

The principle investigators from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and their colleagues have been thoroughly professional in the scientific rigor with which they have been conducting surveys, analyzing data, and presenting results. The video evidence was presented in *Science*, one of the most reputable of peer-reviewed journals. Additional analysis of historical information and audio evidence has been thorough. The investigators' actions have been transparent and all of this information is available to the public. Jackson's criticisms of the work are not supported by the available scientific evidence and editors of *The Auk* apparently did not follow standard scientific review procedures.

Further, the actions taken by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, The Nature Conservancy, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal agencies, and the Ivory-bill Recovery Team since the announcement have been entirely appropriate. The possibility that this magnificent bird still exists, even based on the limited evidence that is available, warrants expenditures for continued search, on-the-ground conservation, and careful recovery planning.

Conservation often requires working against the long odds of insufficient time, too little data, and meager funding, but waiting to act until perfect knowledge is achieved can mean acting too late. Those working on the Ivory-billed Woodpecker today are doing what should be done, and we at ABC fully support their activities. We in the bird conservation community cannot allow unfair criticism and unsubstantiated claims to adversely affect our conservation work. We encourage you to support the partners involved in Ivory-billed Woodpecker recovery, not blindly or without healthy skepticism, but with appreciation for the honesty and competence with which they are doing difficult work in the face of negative publicity.

George Fenwick, President  
David Pashley, Vice President for Conservation  
George Wallace, Vice President and Chief Conservation Officer  
American Bird Conservancy  
[www.abcbirds.org](http://www.abcbirds.org)

Scott Sutcliffe Cornell Lab of Ornithology 607-2546-2424

**The Institute for Bird Populations (IBP)** is gearing up to coordinate another state-wide **Burrowing Owl survey, beginning in May 2006**. The information will be an important resource for Burrowing Owl conservation efforts in California, and the previous survey has been widely used and cited by government agencies and conservation-oriented non-governmental organizations. Sixteen survey blocks have been selected in Sonoma County.

If you are interested in assisting with this effort by surveying a block in Sonoma County, please contact Jessica Martini-Lamb at [sonoma\\_buow@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sonoma_buow@sbcglobal.net) or (707) 547-1903. If you are interested in any other volunteer opportunities, including surveying outside of Sonoma County, please contact Bob Wilkerson or Rodney Siegel as soon as possible at [owl@birdpop.org](mailto:owl@birdpop.org) or 415-663-2051.

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Be like the bird, who halting in his flight / On limb too slight, / Feels it give way beneath him, yet sings / Knowing he has wings. -Victor Hugo, writer (1802-1885)

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**KITE**  
**1992**  
**Santa Rosa CA 95403**

**MAY 2006**



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