



Kite Tales

Volume 42 Number 1

September 2006

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PAY UP! YOUR DUES ARE DUE!!!!

SEND THEM NOW TO: Treasurer Don Howard, 979 Hogwarts Circle, Petaluma CA 94954

\$15 family, \$8 individual, \$3 student

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September 14, 7:00 p. m. First meeting of this year

Keith Hansen presents 'The Yucatan'

showing us wonderful pictures of, and telling us about birding on this beautiful and amazing Mexican peninsula. An outstanding birder, tour guide, photographer, and artist, he is not to be missed.

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.

OTHER COMING ATTRACTIONS:

Sept. 18th, Monday, 7:30 pm - Madrone Audubon Society's General Meeting – Presenting "Sonoma County's Open Space Program,- Yesterday's Achievements and Tomorrow's Goals" will be **RROS's Ted Eliot**. First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa.
(continued on Page 2)

Oct. 12th, RROS Potluck Picnic. Stay tuned for place and times. See www.rros.org

FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, September 30 – Field Trip to Point Reyes National Seashore

This is our annual 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 or the Whitehouse Pool parking lot (near intersection of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and Bear Valley Rd.) at 8:00 a.m. We will search the usual spots on outer Point Reyes 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 21 – 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.

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Mitchell Canyon Field Trip Report April 29, 2006

Seventeen of us enjoyed another nice day in Mitchell Canyon. The highlights were three Golden Eagles, four Hammond's Flycatchers, one MacGillivray's Warbler, and one Coast Horned Lizard. The field trip participants were Robin Beeman, Janet Bosshard, Pam Campbell, Nolan Chase, Ed DeBellevue, Elmer Dudik, Joni Gardner, Betty Groce, Helen Kochenderfer, Rick LeBaudour, Gloria Markowitz, Alexandra McDonald, Karen Nagel, Don Reinberg, Ruth Rudesill, Shirley Spina, and Alan Wight.

Birds observed (59 species): Wild Turkey, California Quail, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, American Kestrel, Band-tailed Pigeon, White-throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Acorn-, Nuttall's-, & Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Western Wood-Pewee, Hammond's Fly-catcher, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Hutton's-, & Warbling Vireo, Steller's Jay, Western Scrub-Jay, Common Raven, Cliff Swallow, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Oak Titmouse, Bushtit, White-breasted Nuthatch, Bewick's Wren, House Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Western Bluebird, Swainson's Thrush, Wrentit, Northern Mocking-bird, California Thrasher, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Orange-crowned Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Western Tanager, Spotted Towhee, California Towhee, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Bullock's Oriole, Purple Finch, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch. Alan Wight

Geysers Road Field Trip Report May 20, 2006

The highlights of our trip up Geysers Road were two Olive-sided Flycatchers, two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, one Hooded Oriole (at the bridge at the bottom of Pine Flat Road), and a female Anna's Hummingbird on a nest at the Little Sulphur Creek bridge. The field trip participants were Robin Beeman, Elmer Dudik, Betty Groce, Richard Hurley, Helen Kochenderfer, Don McCarthy, Gerald Mugele, Lilly Mugele, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Gwendolyn Toney, and Alan Wight.

Birds observed (58 species): Canada Goose, Mallard, Mountain Quail, California Quail, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Band-tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Acorn Woodpecker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Kingbird,

Cassin's Vireo, Hutton's Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Steller's Jay, Western Scrub-Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Violet-green Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Oak Titmouse, Bushtit, White-breasted Nuthatch, Bewick's Wren, House Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Western Bluebird, American Robin, Wrentit, California Thrasher, European Starling, Orange-crowned Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Western Tanager, Spotted Towhee, California Towhee, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Hooded Oriole, Purple Finch, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch. Alan Wight

Kern River Preserve Field Trip Report July 7-10, 2006

Bob Barnes showed us around this very birdy area for the better part of four days. We did well with the Kern River Preserve birds, seeing Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Summer Tanager, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Vermilion Flycatcher, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Lesser Nighthawk. Highlights from the desert were Cactus Wren, Greater Roadrunner, Scott's Oriole, Costa's Hummingbird, and Long-eared Owl. In the mountains, we saw Black Swift, Williamson's Sapsucker, Northern Goshawk, Evening Grosbeak, and Blue Grouse. The variety of bird species in this small area is remarkable. The field trip participants were Don Howard, Lisa Hug, Helen Kochenderfer, Rick LeBaudour, Karen Nagel, Linda Petruvias, Shirley Spina, and Alan Wight.

Birds observed (137 species): Wood Duck, Mallard, Chukar, Ring-necked Pheasant, Blue Grouse, Mountain Quail, California Quail, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, White-tailed Kite, Northern Harrier, Northern Goshawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, American Kestrel, Killdeer, Rock Pigeon, Band-tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Greater Roadrunner, Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl, Long-eared Owl, Lesser Nighthawk, Common Poorwill, Black Swift, White-throated Swift, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Anna's Hummingbird, Costa's Hummingbird, Rufous Hummingbird, Acorn Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, White-headed Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Western Wood-Pewee, Willow Flycatcher, Hammond's Flycatcher, Gray Flycatcher, Dusky Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Say's 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, American Crow, Common Raven, Tree Swallow, Violet-green Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Mountain Chickadee, Oak Titmouse, Verdin, Bushtit, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Cactus Wren, Rock Wren, Canyon Wren, Bewick's Wren, House Wren, Winter Wren, American Dipper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Western Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Wrentit, Northern Mockingbird, California Thrasher, European Starling, Phainopepla, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager, Western Tanager, Spotted Towhee, California Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Black-throated Sparrow, Sage 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, Scott's Oriole, Purple Finch, Cassin's Finch, House Finch, Red Crossbill, Pine Siskin, Lesser Goldfinch, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Evening Grosbeak, House Sparrow. Alan Wight

RROS mourns the recent death of long time active member **Bertha Rains**, and offers sincere condolences to her husband, Bob, and their family.

OBSERVATIONS by Ruth Rudesill Summer 2006

Species	Date	Place	County	Number	Observer(s)
✓ Cackling Goose	6/13/06	Spring Lake Park, Santa Rosa	SON	1 pr w/ 2 young	RRh, WP
Long-tailed Duck	6/1 to present	Ten Mile River	MEN	1	KH, JH, mob
Wood Duck	6/11/06	Spring Lake Park	SON	1f w/2 young	RRh
Mountain Quail	8/13/06	Pine Flat Rd	SON	sev	RRh, LMc
Brown Booby	8/8-9/06	Bear Harbor	MEN	1	JW
✓ American Bittern	7/30/06	Spring Lake Park	SON	1	RRh
Ibis spp.	8/19/06	Bodega Harbor	SON	15-20	Marilyn Toms fide BBU
Cattle Egret	8/10/06	RP ExprsswayxStony Pt Rd	SON	15	LT
Black-footed Albatross	8/7/06	Cordell Bank	SON/MRN	110	RS,BDP,AW, RAR
Buller's Shearwater	8/7/06	Cordell Bank	MRN	6	RS, BDP,AW,RAR
Sooty Shearwater	8/7/06	Cordell Bank area	SON/MRN	21,400	RS, BDP,AW, RAR
Pink-footed Shearwater	8/7/06	Cordell Bank	SON/MRN	220	RS,AW,BDP,RAR
Wilson's Storm-petrel	8/7/06	Cordell Bank	MRN	8	RS,BDP,AW,RAR
Ashy Storm -petrel	8/7/06	Cordell Bank	MRN	150	RS,BDP,AW,RAR
Dark-rumped Petrel	8/13/06	Fort Bragg pelagic	MEN	1	SJ, mob
Northern Fulmar	8/7/06	Cordell Bank	MRN	14	RS, AW,BDP,RAR
Black -cr Night Heron	6/25/06	Austin Creek	SON	juv	LPe
Pied-billed Grebe	6/1/06	Shiloh Ranch Park Windsor	SON	1ad 3young	DgSh
✓ White-tailed Kite	7/21/06	west Petaluma	SON	14	LNe
✓ Bald Eagle	6/4/06	River Rd near Trenton Rd	SON	1ad	RAR
Swainson's Hawk	7/9/06	Hwy 505x Midway Rd	SOL	1 light phase	RAR
Peregrine Falcon	8/13/06	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	AW
Semi-palmated Plover	8/5/06	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	BDy
Pacific Golden-plover	8/12-14/06	Virgin Creek Beach	MEN	2	MM, CV
✓ Pacific Golden-plover	8/18/06	Shollenberger Park	SON	1-2	KP,RS
Bar-tailed Godwit	8/6-16/06	Virgin Creek Beach	MEN	1	MM, DT, mob
✓ Wandering Tattler	8/7/06	Bodega Harbor	SON	2-3	D&DH, SS, RAR
✓ Lesser Yellowlegs	8/13-18/06	Shollenberger Park	SON	6 (3 juv)	AW, RS
Spotted Sandpiper	8/4/06	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	JGa
✓ Semi-palmated Sandpiper	8/5-11/06	Doran Park	SON	1	LHg, LLu, CLu,SC,Bdy
✓ Western Sandpiper	6/25/06	mouth Austin Creek	SON	1 alt	LPe
✓ Surfbird	8/6/06	Bodega Harbor	SON	36	SBI
Baird's Sandpiper	8/7/06	Cordell Bank	SON	1juv	RS
					flying around boat 26 miles SWS Bodega Head
✓ Red Knot	8/14/06	Doran Park	SON	2	fide DF
Red Phalarope	8/7/06	Cordell Bank	MRN	12	RS,BDP,AW,RR
Red-necked Phalarope	8/13/06	Shollenberger Park	SON	13-24+	AW
✓ Red-necked Phalarope	8/14/06	Bodega Farm Pond	SON	120	DF
✓ Wilson's Phalarope	8/13/06	Shollenberger Park	SON	67	AW
Sabine's Gull	8/7/06	Cordell Bank	MRN	46	RS,BDP,AW,RAR
Bonaparte's Gull	8/13/06	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	AW
✓ Black Skimmer	8/2-7/06	Bodega Harbor	SON	1-2	DF,SS, RS AW mob
Arctic Tern	8/7/06	Cordell Bank	SON	1	RS,BDP,AW
✓ Common Tern	8/7/06	Bodega Harbor	SON	1	D&DH,SS
✓ Elegant Tern	8/7/06	Bodega Harbor	SON	500+	D&DH, SS, mob
✓ Common Murre	8/7/06	offshore to Cordell Bank	SON/MRN	1000+	RS,BDP,AW,RAR
					180 chicks with dad
Rhinoceros Auklet	6/26-27/06	off Bodega Head	SON	1-5	CLu,LLu,DF
Rhinoceros Auklet	8/7/06	Cordell Bank	MRN	35	RS, BDP,AW,RAR
✓ Tufted Puffin	8/7/06	Cordell Bank	SON	3 ad	RS,BDP,AW RAR
Horned Puffin	7/2-4/06	MacKerricher St Park	MEN	1	DJ, mob
Xantus's Murrelet	8/13/06	Fort Bragg pelagic	MEN	2	SJ, mob
✓ Pigeon Guillemot.	6/25/06	Off Bodega Head	SON	50	LLu
✓ Pigeon Guillemot	8/7/06	offshore Bodega Head	SON	90	RS,BDP,AW,RAR
✓ Barn Owl	6/29/06	Temelec, Sonoma	SON	1pr 3 young	TRO
✓ Spotted Owl	8/18/06	upper Santa Rosa creek	SON	2 calling	Kack

Species	Date	Place	County	Number	Observer(s)
✓ Eurasian Collared-Dove	7/7/06	Old Abode SP Petaluma	SON	sev	RS first confirmed nesting
✓ Eurasian Collared-Dove	8/20/06	Petaluma Adobe	SON	2	RAR
Vaux's Swift	6/11/06	Spring Lake Park	SON	sev	RRh
Vaux's Swift	8/15/06	Rio Lindo Academey	SON	30+	RRh, LMc
✓ Myiarchus sp.	7/5/06	Thomas Rd Graton	SON	1	DLi
		8+" bird with a very pronounced grayish crest, a yellow breast and vivid rufous tail.			
Say's Phoebe	6/13-14/06	Hopland Field Station	MEN	1	CV
Say's Phoebe	6/13-14/06	Hopland Field Station	MEN	1	CV (first MEN summer record)
✓ Hammond's Flycatcher	6/5-7/06	Laughlin Road Area	SON	1	DEd
Swainson's Thrush	6/7/06	Laughlin Rd Area	SON	1	DEd
✓ Purple Martin	7/31/06	Pine Flat Rd	SON	1pr	DQu
		Possible nest in burned snag			
✓ American Redstart	7/69/06	Shiloh Ranch Park Windsor	SON	1m	DgSh
American Redstart	8/14/06	Miner Hole Rd	MEN	1	DLs
Orange-cr Warbler	6/1/06	Shiloh Co Park Windsor	SON	7	DgSh
Orange-cr Warbler	6/11/06	Spring Lake Park	SON	1	RAR
		1 fledgling fed by parents			
✓ Northern Parula	6/4-18/06	Spring Lake Park	SON	1m	RRh, RAR, AC, mob
		photographed by AWgh and Bbo			
✓ Wilson's Warbler	6/11/06	Spring Lake Park	SON	sev fledglings	RAR
✓ Hermit Warbler	8/18/06	Owl Canyon	SON	1	DF
✓ Hooded Warbler	6/4/06	6/13-7/27/06 Spring Lake	SON	1m	DShw, RRh, RAR, mob
		Photographed by Len Blumin 6/29/06 and Mark Eaton			
✓ Hooded Warbler	8/20,26,27/06	Spring Lake Park	SON	1m	RRh, JB, mob
MacGillivray's Warbler	8/14/06	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	RRH, JB
✓ Yellow-breasted Chat	6/11/06	Spring Lake Park Santa Rosa	SON	1singing	RAR
		this bird was not refund			
Chipping Sparrow	6/7/06	Laughlin Rd	SON	1	DEd
✓ Black chinned Sparrow	6/20/06	Pine Flat Rd	SON	1m	FrO, JLx in burned area
Blue Grosbeak	7/9/06	n end of Timm Rd	SOL	1pr	RAR
Black-headed Grosbeak	8/8/06	Santa Rosa yard	SON	6	GIW
Bullock's Oriole	6/13/06	Spring Lake Park	SON	1 pr	RRh, WP fledglings
Hooded Oriole	6/20-7/7/06	Carriger Rd Sonoma	SON	1pr babies	KMu 2 nd brood
Hooded Oriole	8/20/06	Spring Lake Park	SON	family	RRh, JB
Brown-headed Cowbird	8/7/06	Cordell Bank	SON	3	RS,BDP,AW,RAR
		Flying around boat			
House Finch	7/30/06	Santa Rosa yard	SON	1 pr babies	DgSh late nesting

Observers: Ken Ackerman, Sara Blauman, Len Blumin, Janet Bosshard, Bill Bousman, Anthony Cermack, Suzanne Cogen, Bob Dyer, Mark Eaton, Daniel Edelstein, Dea Freid, Joni Gardner, David & Denise Hamilton, Karen Havlena, Jim Havlena Dave Jensen, Les & Cindy Lieurance, Jim Lomax, Matthew Matthiessen Linda McCandless, Kathy Mugele, Len Nelson, Frances Oliver, Kathy Parker, Wendy Peterson, Linda Petrulias, Dave Quady, Rhio Reigh, Ruth Rudesill, Tom Rusert, Sharon Salisbury, Doug Shaw, Debra Love Shearwater, Rich Stallcup, Laurence Taylor, Dorothy Tobkin, Chuck Vaughn, Jerry White, Alan Wight, Jon Winter & Shearwater Journeys

Welcome new members – Barbara McCord and Daphne Smith
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Come to the Tenth Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium in Stockton, CA Nov. 16-19 and experience the great programs as well as field trips, the "Birder's Market", and more. Brochures will be on the way soon, and advance information will be available ASAP at our website <http://cvbs.org>

RROS FINANCIAL REPORT

2005 - 06 ACCOUNT BALANCES

		<u>EXPENSES</u>	
Beginning Bank Balance 7/1/05		Book - Cost of Sale	\$ 18.00
\$3530.62		Computer	221.37
		Contribution	580.00
		Education	250.00
		Fees	120.00
		Office	59.10
		Postage	235.64
		Printing Newsletter	341.97
		Tax, Business	<u>45.00</u>
		TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,871.08
		NET INCOME	\$221.02
		Ending Bank Balance 6/30/06	
		\$3,751.64	

INCOME

Donations	\$234.00
Gr Sales Books	750.00
Gr Sales Checklists	220.10
Membership Dues	<u>888.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,092.10

RROS 2006 – 2007 Board 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@iuno.com	579-3400
Treasurer	Don Howard	979 Hogwarts Circle, Petaluma 94954	binkvbunji@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
Kite Tales	Betty Burr ridge	1653 Arroyo Sierra Way, Santa Rosa 95405	bburridge@sbcglobal.net	527-0225
Hospitality	Adeene Nelligan	29 Sequoia Circle, Santa Rosa 95401		523-1116
Membership	Gwendolyn Toney	1992 Windmill Cir. Santa Rosa 95403	Gwendolyn@sonomawestholdings.com	824-2534

Kite Tales Deadlines: Submit Observations to Ruth Rudesill by September 20th, all other items to Editor Betty Burr ridge by September 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, and are held at 7:00 pm at the Laguna Waste Water Treatment Plant, 4300 Llano Road, Santa Rosa California, unless otherwise announced. Dues are \$15 per family, \$8 per individual or \$3 per student for a one-year membership. Send dues to RROS Treasurer Don Howard. See above for address.

Avian Influenza (AI) Notes: Excerpted from Yolo Audubon's Avian Influenza Symposium, 4-15-06 with update from www.iol.co.za on 8-29-06

The good news is that bird flu found Aug. 14th in 2 wild swans in Michigan was not the deadly H5N1 Asian strain that has ravaged poultry and killed at least 141 people worldwide, the U. S. Agriculture Department said on Monday, August 28th. This low grade strain has been found many times in North America and poses no threat to people.

If it were the highly pathogenic H5N1 virus even more intense monitoring and extra security measures than are already underway would be undertaken by governmental agencies. This strain is not currently easily or efficiently passed to humans, nor from human to human.

However, viruses change, and move from one host to another. Ducks are at the center of the "Wheel of Influenza Misfortune" and are a natural reservoir host for flu viruses. Its effects in ducks are usually mild.

When the virus migrates into chickens it can become a "hot" or virulent strain. But pigs are the 'mixmasters' in which viruses can be transmitted in both directions, between pigs and humans, and birds to pigs, allowing flu viruses to swap genes with other influenza viruses within the pigs. If these avian viruses mutate to or combine with "human" viruses, they can become a big problem.

Three critical elements for controlling the spread of AI are global cooperation, planning for the necessity to isolate or quarantine people, and remaining calm (knowing how to respond.) AI is not going away, and the probability of a pandemic of H5N1 virus increases the more the virus spreads.

Some experts expect H5N1 (in its highly pathogenic form) to arrive in Alaska, Canada, and Siberia from Asia this summer. Assuming that these infected birds co-mingle with North American birds also breeding there, the fall annual southward migration could introduce the highly pathogenic H5N1 virus down the Pacific Coast of North America. Strategies to control and contain outbreaks, if this does indeed occur, are being developed and executed.

Wild birds have the avian flu virus in their feces. Sick or dead birds have the avian flu virus throughout their bodies. Other birds are infected by ingesting feces or the sick or dead birds. (Note to hunters: Cooking game meat to 155o-165oF kills the virus.)

For now, common sense routine precautions and hygiene are a good idea.

Do not handle birds that are obviously sick or dead.

Wear rubber or disposable latex gloves and use an inverted plastic bag to pick up a dead bird. Then double bag the first bag.

Wear disposable or rubber gloves and wash hands with soap and water, alcohol-based hand products or a 10% bleach solution after touching wildlife, or cleaning wild bird feeders or bird baths.

AI is a major challenge but with education and solid planning we can control and limit the damage.

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America's Birdiest City and County Competition - 2006 results!

The overall City winner was Corpus Christi, with a new city record of 247 species; the overall County winner was Los Angeles with 265.

For the Coastal County category, in which Sonoma County was entered, LA's 265 took first place, while we scored 182 species. Let's try again next year.

Measure F by Ted Eliot, Co-chair of the committee campaigning for Measure F which will be on the November 7, 2006 ballot in Sonoma County.

This measure has relevance for birders. It would continue the 1/4-cent sales tax, which since 1990 has funded the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District. Among the almost 70,000 acres protected are some which are important bird habitat, including

more than 3000 acres along the Sonoma coast south and north of the Russian River and up Willow Creek, the 4 Santa Rosa-owned farms on the Laguna de Santa Rosa, the southern addition to Shollenberger Park and what has become the Mayacamas National Audubon Sanctuary. Measure F extends the life of the tax and the District to 2031, giving it more opportunities to save natural areas and to open more of its property to public access, including for birders. To pass, the ballot measure needs a 2/3 affirmative vote even though it is a continuation of an existing tax and not a new tax. If it fails, the County will lose a vital tool for protecting habitat, water sources, scenic vistas and parklands. For further information, see www.friendsofsonomacounty.org

What? Raise the dues? First increase in how many years?

The RROS Executive Committee, after examining the 2005-2006 Financial Report and in anticipation of increased postage and printing costs and other expenses in the coming year(s), recommends a dues increase for each category of membership, starting in fiscal year 2007-2008. Expect discussion and a vote of the membership at the September meeting.

KITE TALES
1992 Windmill Circle
Santa Rosa CA 95403

September 2006



BD & S Parmeter
2500 Emerson St.
Napa CA 94558