



Kite Tales

Volume 42 Number 2

October 2006

PAY UP IF 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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POTLUCK PICNIC ON THURSDAY OCTOBER 12

WHERE?

PRBO'S NEW DIGS AT 3820 CYPRESS DR. #11, Petaluma

WHEN?

5:30 Self-led birding at Shollenberger Park

6:30 Tour led by PRBO staff

7:00 potluck dinner

Later: brief meeting

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OTHER COMING ATTRACTIONS:

Sat., Sept. 30 – Field trip to Pt. Reyes National Seashore

Mon., Oct. 16 Madrone Audubon General Meeting – 7:30 p. m.

Neills Warnock from PRBO presents 'Wings Over Borders – Migration over the Pacific Flyway'. First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Dr. Santa Rosa

Sat., Oct. 21 – Field Trip to Bodega Bay

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.

How can we thank Alan enough?

Alan recently submitted this letter. 'I need to resign from my position as RROS field trip chairperson. My wife and I just adopted a baby girl and I want to reduce my commitments to free up some time. I can help get the next field trip person started if desired. It looks like I've been doing the field trips since 1999, so it will be good to give someone else a chance. It's been a lot of fun!'

Thanks, Alan Wight

Congratulations to the new dad, and thanks for your many years of excellent service to RROS, Alan.

Now, WHO WILL BE THE NEXT TO STEP UP TO THE TELESCOPE AND LEAD US INTO THE FIELD!? Even though Alan will be a hard act to follow, don't be bashful. It will be an honor to follow in Alan's footsteps. Volunteers: please contact lisahug@earthlink.net.

Six Free Lectures on the Natural History of Raptors by Alida

Morzenti, Professor Emeritus from U. C. Davis and President of So. Co. Bird Rescue are being offered every other Friday, 7:00 p. m., at Hidden Valley School, Santa Rosa. Learn more about our raptors, and perhaps you will want to become a volunteer to work with captive or disabled/sick birds. First lecture was 9-22. Next lecture 10-6. Donations gladly accepted.

Lew Edmondson, gentleman, expert birder, long time active member of RROS, died recently. RROS extends condolences to his wife, Marilyn, and family.

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Volunteer opportunities in Sonoma County . . .

Experienced Birder Watchers Needed for Laguna Monitoring Project!

The Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation is looking for 5-10 experienced bird watchers to participate in a long-term bird monitoring effort along the Laguna main channel between Hwy 12 and Occidental Road. Please contact Christina Sloop at 707-527-9277 x101 or chrstina@lagunafoundation.org for more information.

The **Institute for Bird Populations** will be continuing its **statewide burrowing owl monitoring program in 2007.** To participate in this interesting and very important study send you name and contact info to owl@birdpop.org. More info at <http://birdpop.org>

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You are invited to participate in the annual **SANTA ROSA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT to be held this year on Sunday, December 17.** Details will appear in the November issue of Kite Tales. This is always an exciting occasion--each count offers unique opportunities and adventures. The day ends with a group dinner where we compile our observations and share experiences. If you are interested please contact the compiler, Ken Ackerman, at 707-538-2038 or markandack@gmail.com.

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Cooper's Hawks and Sharp-shinned Hawks have been studied for several years by Dr. Stephen Lima and his graduate students at Indiana State University using radio-telemetry to track the movements and behaviors of individual birds over time. They have found that, while these accipiters do visit bird feeders, they do not spend disproportionate amounts of time at bird feeders. To do so would be counterproductive for the predators, as their continued presence would no doubt tend to drive prey from the feeders. Instead, the predators were said to "manage" their prey by varying their presence and foraging attempts to create unpredictability and thus increase opportunities for foraging success over time.

So, yes, Cooper's hawks and Sharp-shinned Hawks do come to bird feeders, but they tend to come and go in a variable manner so as not to disrupt their potential food supply (under normal circumstances). Stan Moore stangaboon@yahoo.com

OBSERVATIONS by Ruth Rudesill

September 2006

<u>Species</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
✓ Blue-winged Teal	8/26/06	Shollenberger Park	SON	4	DEd
✓ Bufflehead	8/27/06	Bodega Farm Pond	SON	2 f	BDP, AW
Red-necked Grebe	7/14/06	Off Doran Beach	SON	1	BDP, DHo
Black-footed Albatross	9/3/06	Cordell Bank	MRN	30	RS, BDP, mob
Flesh-footed Shearwater	9/3/06	Cordell Bank	MRN	1	RS, BDP mob
Manx Shearwater	8/26/06	Fort Bragg pelagic	MEN	1	SJ
Wilson's Storm-petrel	9/3/06	Cordell Bank	MRN	1	RS, BDP mob
Leach's Storm-petrel	9/3/06	Cordell Bank	MRN	1	RS, RAR, mob
Ashy Storm-petrel	9/3/06	Cordell Bank	MRN	100	RS, BDP mob
✓ Cattle Egret	9/11/06	Pepper Road	SON	40	BDP
Green Heron	8/28/06	Shollenberger Park	SON	2	ALa
✓ White-faced Ibis	9/1/06	Doran/Bodega Harbor	SON	1- flock	DF, RMa
Osprey	8/13/06	Lake Hennessey	NAP	2	BDP, HMc
Osprey	9/9/06	over Owl Canyon	SON	1	BDP, DN, RMa
Bald Eagle	8/13/06	Lake Hennessey	NAP	1 ad	BDP, HMc
✓ Common Black Hawk	9/5/06	Laguna area	SON	1	SMo
✓ Common Black Hawk	9/21/06	Sonoma Co Airport area	SON	1 flying	Elmer Dudik
Red-tailed Hawk	9/6/06	Petaluma	SON	1 leucistic	SMo
Peregrine Falcon	8/22/06	Doran Park	SON	1 eating	Marbled Godwit RS
Sora	8/26-28/06	Shollenberger Park	SON	2	DEd, ALa
Black-bellied Plover	8/20/06	Shollenberger Park	SON	60	BDP
✓ Pacific Golden Plover	8/20/06	Shollenberger Park	SON	4	BDP
✓ Pacific Golden-Plover	9/23/06	Shollenberger Park	SON	6	TH
✓ Snowy Plover	8/26/06	Shollenberger Park	SON	2	DE
✓ Snowy Plover	9/5/06	Doran Beach	SON	8	BDP
Semipalmated Plover	8/20/06	Shollenberger Park	SON	2	BDP
✓ Lesser Yellowlegs	8/29/06	Sebastopol Comm Ctr	SON	4	LHg
✓ Lesser Yellowlegs	9/16-23/06	Shollenberger Park	SON	1-3	RS, RAR, TH
✓ Solitary Sandpiper	9/16/06	Garcia River	MEN	1	CV GC
✓ Wandering Tattler	9/11/06	Bodega Harbor	SON	1	BDP
Whimbrel	8/4/06	Doran boat launch	SON	1	BDP, DHo
✓ Long-billed Curlew	8/20/06	Shollenberger Park	SON	40	BDP
✓ Long-billed Curlew	9/1/06	Doran	SON	2	DF, RMa
✓ Marbled Godwit	8/27/06	Spud Pt	SON	300	BDP, AW
✓ Surfbird	8/4/06	Doran bayside	SON	110	BDP, DHo
✓ Surfbird	9/5/06	Doran Park	SON	6	BDP
Red Knot	8/27/06	Spud Pt	SON	1 juv	BDP, AW
Red Knot	9/1/06	Bodega Harbor	SON	6	DF, RMa
Red Knot	9/9-13/06	Spud Pt	SON	5-11	BDP, RAR, DN, RMa
✓ Semipalmated Sandpiper	9/2/06	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	RAR
✓ Baird's Sandpiper	8/22/06	Doran Park bayside	SON	1	RS
Pectoral Sandpiper	9/4/06	Speletta Slop Ponds	MRN	1	C&LL
Pectoral Sandpiper	9/22/06	Bodega Farm Pond	SON	1	LHg
✓ Pectoral Sandpiper	9/16-23/06	Shollenberger Park	SON	1-2	RS, RAR, mob
✓ Ruff (Reeve)	9/3/06	Little River	MEN	1	RL
✓ Ruff (Reeve)	9/1-4/06	Doran Ent Pond	SON	1 f juv	RMa, BDP, RAR, mob
✓ Ruff	9/16-21/06	Shollenberger park	SON	1 juv	RS, DQ, RAR mob Bob Dyer photo
Wilson's Snipe	8/28/06	Shollenberger Park	SON		
Red-necked Phalarope	8/4/06	Doran Pond	SON	50	BDP, DHo
Red-necked Phalarope	8/26-27/06	Bodega Harbor	SON	300+	BDP, TE, AW

Species	Date	Place	County	Number	Observer(s)	
✓ Red-necked Phalarope	8/20-26/06	Shollenberger Park	SON	26-100+	BDP, DEd	
Red-necked Phalarope	9/4/06	Speletta Slop Ponds	MRN	101	C&LL	
✓ Wilson's Phalarope	8/26/06	Shollenberger Park	SON	16	DEd	
South Polar Skua	9/3/06	Cordell Bank	MRN	14	RS, RAR, mob	
Pomarine Jaeger	9/3/06	Cordell Bank	MRN	20	RS, BDP, mob	
Parasitic Jaeger	9/3/06	Cordell Bank	MRN	2	RS, BDP, mob	
Long-tailed Jaeger	9/3/06	Cordell Bank	MRN	3 juv	RS, BDP mob	
Bonaparte's Gull	8/20/06	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	BDP	
Sabine's Gull	9/3/06	Cordell Bank	MRN	25+	RS, BDP mob	
✓ Glaucous Gull	9/22/06	Safeway Parking lot	PetalumaSON	1 1 st yr	RAR	
✓ Elegant Tern	8/26-28/06	Bodega Harbor	SON	400	BDP, TE, ALa	
✓ Common Tern	8/26-9/11/06	Bodega Harbor	SON	1-3	BDP, TE, AW, DN	
✓ Marbled Murrelet	8/22/06	off Bodega Head	SON	1	RS	
Marbled Murrelet	9/17/06	Tomales Bay	MRN	1	JD	
Cassin's Auklet	9/3/06	Cordell Bank	MRN	1	RS, BDP mob	
. Only one seen, local nesting pop crashed (no offshore krill per RS)						
Barn Owl	9/9/06	Campbell Cove	SON	1	BDP, DN, RMa	
✓ Vaux's Swift	9/9-18/06	Rio Lindo Acdmy	Healdsburg	SON	10,000-20,000	BBu, Gma mob
✓ Olive-sided Flycatcher	8/16/06	Pine Flat Rd	SON	1	BDP, DHo	
Eastern Kingbird	9/8/06	Hopland Field Station	MEN	1	BK mob	
Willow Flycatcher	8/22/06	behind Rail Ponds	SON	1	RS	
Willow Flycatcher	8/26/06	near Seb Comm Ctr	SON	2	LHg	
Willow Flycatcher	8/27/06	Owl Canyon, Doran	SON	1-2	BDP, AW	
Willow Flycatcher	9/9-11/06	Campbell Cove/Owl Canyon	SON	2-5	BDP, DN, RMa	
✓ Cassin's Vireo	8/16/06	Pine Flat Rd	SON	2	BDP, DHo	
✓ Philadelphia Vireo	9/17/06	Fish Docks PRNS	MRN	1	RS, JW, RAR mob	
✓ Purple Martin	6/21/06	Pine Flat Rd	SON	1-2	BDP	
✓ Purple Martin	8/16/06	Pine Flat Rd	SON	2	BDP, DHo	
House Wren	9/9/06	Owl Canyon	SON	1	BDP, DN, RMa	
✓ Wrentit	8/27/06	above Campbell Cove	SON	2	BDP, AW	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	9/17/06	Pt Reyes Lighthouse	MRN	1-2	RS, RAR mob	
✓ American Pipit	9/9/06	Campbell Cove	SON	1	BDP, DN, RMa	
✓ Cedar Waxwing	9/4/06	Ragle Ranch Seb.	SON	60-70	KWi, BOI	
Tennessee Warbler	9/10/06	Bolinas Gallery	MRN	1	KH	
Nashville Warbler	9/23/06	Campbell Cove	SON	1	DN, DHo	
Blackpoll Warbler	9/4/06	Mendoza Ranch	MRN	1	C&LL	
Blackpoll Warbler	9/17/06	Nunes Ranch PRNS	MRN	1	RS, RAR mob	
✓ Black & White Warbler	9/10/06	Owl Canyon	SON	1f	RAR	
Black & White Warbler	9/17/06	Ten Mile River	MEN	1	KH JH	
✓ Ovenbird	9/5/06	nw corner Campbell Cove	SON	1	DN, BDP	
Yellow-throated Warbler	9/16-17/06	Nunes Ranch PRNS	MRN	1	RS, RAR mob	
✓ Chestnut-sided Warbler	9/13/06	Owl Canyon	SON	1	CC	
American Redstart	9/4/06	Owl Canyon	SON	1	C&LL	
American Redstart	9/9/06	Campbell Cove	SON	1f	BDP, DN, RMa	
American Redstart	9/11/06	Bodega Marine Lab Ent	SON	1	BDP, DN	
American Redstart	9/13/06	Owl Canyon	SON	1	CC	
Magnolia Warbler	9/4/06	Nunes Ranch	MRN	1	C&LL	
✓ Magnolia Warbler	9/14/06	Bodega Dunes SP	SON	1	DN	
✓ Magnolia Warbler	9/23/06	Campbell Cove	SON	1	DHo	
Northern Parula	9/17/06	Ten Mile River	MEN	1	KH JH	
Prairie Warbler	8/24/06	Glass Beach	MEN	1	DT	
Prairie Warbler	9/17/06	Fish Docks	SON	1	RS, mob	
Palm Warbler	9/19/06	trail Abbott's Lagoon	MEN	1	LHg	

Species	Date	Place	County	Number	Observer(s)
Townsend's Warbler	8/27/06	near Rail Ponds	SON	1 f	BDP, AW
Townsend's Warbler	8/27/06	Cazedero yard	SON	1	DB, PC
MacGillvray's Warbler	9/5/06	nw corner Campbell Cove	SON	1-2	BDP
MacGillvray's Warbler	9/9/06	south Campbell Cove	SON	1	BDP, DN, RMa
Hooded Warbler	9/4/06 (last)	Spring Lake Park	SON	1m	Judi Sierra
Rufous-cr. Sparrow	8/13/06	Lake Hennessey	NAP	1	BDP, HMc
Clay-colored Sparrow	9/9-13/06	Campbell Cove	SON	1	BDP, DN, RMa, CC
Fox Sparrow	9/11/06	Bodega Dunes SP	SON	1	BDP, DN
Lincoln's Sparrow	9/9/06	Campbell Cove	SON	2	BDP, DN, RMa
Rose-brsted Grosbeak	9/2/06	Inverness	MRN	1f	C&LL
Blue Grosbeak	8/26/06	Fish Docks	MRN	1 f	KWi, BOI, IM
Lazuli Bunting	9/11/06	Bolinas Gallery	MRN	1	KH
		#200th Gallery yard bird!			
Great-tailed Grackle	8/26/06	Albion	MEN,	1	MM CV
Yellow-headed Blackbird	9/19/06	Abbott's Lagoon	MRN	1	LHg
Brown-headed Cowbird	8/26/06	Fish Docks	MRN	1	KWi, Bol, IM

Being fed by a White-crowned Sparrow

Note: During 2nd/ 3rd week of September – dozens of Yellow Warblers were sighted in many locations

Observers: Dennis Beall, Betty Burrige, Chris Cannard, George Chaniot, Pam Conley, Joannie Dranginis, Daniel Edlestein, Ted Eliot, Dea Freid, Keith Hansen, Karen & Jim Havlena, David Hofmann, Tony Harrow, Lisa Hug, Bob Keiffer, Cindy & Les Lieurance, Ron Levalley, Gloria Markowitz, Roger Marlowe, Andy LaCasse, Herb McGrew, Matthew Matthiessen, Stan Moore, Ian Morrison, Dan Nelson, Becky Olsen, Benjamin D "Mike" Parmeter; Dave Quady, Ruth A Rudesill, Shearwater Journeys, Rich Stallcup, Dorothy Tobkin, Chuck Vaughn, Alan Wight, John Winter, & Ken Wilson

Birding Babylon – A Soldiers Journal from Iraq by Jonathan

Trouern-Trend published by Sierra Club Books, San Francisco , 2006. 79 (short) pages.

A soldier goes to war in Iraq, yet succeeds in also continuing an important part of his normal state-side life as a naturalist. Daily wildlife observations are written in a calm and matter-of-fact style, belying the stressful surroundings. Iraq's diverse and exotic fauna become the stars of the story. No politics here.

Charming in its simplicity, *Birding Babylon* is an easy read after a difficult day, and a perfect small gift. Review by Betty Burrige

Before Warm Springs Dam: A History Of the Lake Sonoma Area is

now posted on the Anthropological Studies Center Web site at Sonoma State University. <http://www.sonoma.edu/asc/projects/WarmSprings/index.html> This extensively illustrated, 200+ page public outreach document was written by ASC for the Corps of Engineers in 1985. However, the Corps did not publish it due to a lack of funds. To get this information out to the public for whom it was created, ASC converted the document (with the Corps' permission) into PDFs that can be accessed on the Internet. "I encourage everyone to visit the Lake Sonoma homepage so that visitors may learn about the history and Native peoples of this area," says Adrian Praetzellis, Director, Anthropological Studies Center.

From: Zeno Swijtink <swijtink@sonoma.edu>

RROS 2006 - 2007 Board of Directors**Officers**

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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, 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.

ECDs--here they come

The Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) is spreading rapidly in North America. It's out-running old-fashioned methods of recording species populations. In a field guide copyrighted 2001 the range map shows the bird confined to the Gulf Coast east of Texas. Hey, these guys blew into California long before 2005's hurricanes swept ashore. This species moves at Internet speed. I'm urging fellow birders to join the informal dove-watchers. Sign up for ebird if you haven't already. <http://www.ebird.org/content/>. Register on ebird, then record your observations, of all birds. Compare records with a community of birders. Many Bay Area birders already post sightings. Familiar birding spots have been registered as hot spots: from Hawk Hill to Lake Merritt, from Corte Madera Marsh to Arrowhead Marsh. Numerous San Francisco locales are listed: Lobos Dunes, Lake Merced, Golden Gate Park. You can add your own backyard. The ECD feeds on grain, fruit, berries, seeds and some Insects. Will this affect Mourning Doves or other suburban or farmland birds? There's no clear evidence from the bird's European invasion hurt other species 1970s: the species released accidentally in the Bahamas. 1980s: it reaches Florida on its own. Less than forty years later it's in San Francisco. Do they breed here now? Doves have been seen regularly near Lobos Dunes and Lake Merced this past summer. And what can ebird tell us already? In California the ECD is most often seen around Ventura County and Santa Barbara. It's been seen along the coast in the Eureka area and occasionally in the Central Valley. Over time ebird can follow the dove's spread. Ebird shows no records yet in the East Bay or the North Bay.

The species was found primarily on the Indian sub-continent a century ago, then it began spreading rapidly westward. It first bred in Britain in 1955 and is now found all over that country and Ireland; one reason - an apparent innate tendency of young doves to disperse toward the west. Previous, recent dramatic avian populations explosions in the Bay Area include Starlings, Rock Pigeons, House Sparrows and Ravens. This time birders have the chance to create a detailed record as the Eurasian Collared-Dove spreads at Internet speed. Harry Fuller www.towhee.net

