



Kite Tales

Volume 43 Number 8

APRIL 2008

General Meeting, Thursday, April 10, 7:00 pm

GRANT BALLARD, co-director of PRBO's Informatics Division and leader of the Adelle Penguin program will present his studies for his PhD dissertation on:

'Foraging Ecology and Population Biology of Adelle Penguins'

Directions to the meetings: 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.

Let's go back to Star's for our pre-meeting dinner! Meet at 5:30 p. m. at Star Restaurant, 8501 Gravenstein Hwy, Cotati (west of Hwy 101, at exit for Hwy 116 West.)

VOLUNTEER TO BE A HAWKWATCHER OR BANDER – Golden Gate Raptor Observatory Recruitment Meetings to learn more about this marvelous opportunity will be held on **April 29th 7 - 9:30 pm, April 30th 7 - 9:30 pm, May 3rd 10 am - 12:30 pm.** at Bldg. 201, Upper Fort Mason, San Francisco. (Enter Bay and Franklin Sts.)

Training will be provided. Applicants must be 18 and able to commit to one full day every other week from August through December in the Marin Headlands, plus weekend & evening trainings in July & August. Interviews will be conducted through May.

Contacts: ggro@parksconservancy.org - 415 331-0730 – www.ggro.org

FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, April 13- King Ridge Road

Spring birds and wildflowers. Meet 8 am in Duncan's Mills, near the shops, south side of River Road (Hwy 116). Bring optics, water, food, sunscreen, hat, layers. Lisa Hug and Ellen Blustein co-leaders. Questions: call Ellen at 707-789-0970.

Saturday, May 10- Geysers Road

Meet 8 am at the first bridge on Pine Flat Road. We will drive from there to Geysers Road. Possible birds include Grasshopper Sparrow, Purple Martin, Mountain Quail, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Bring optics, water, food, sunscreen hats etc. Co-leaders Lisa Hug and Ellen Blustein. Questions: call Ellen at 707-789-0970.

Report on March Field Trip - Anza Borrego St. Park will be in May Kite Tales

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MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR OLIVE COREY –a long-time active RROSer

RROS members have been invited to a family celebration of Olive's life on Saturday April 19, at 1 p.m. Upper Jackrabbit Picnic Area, Spring Lake Park. There will be food, music and shared memories. Casual hiking or birding attire is appropriate. Please carpool. RSVP to son, Steve Corey 707 542-8429, or daughter, Susan Corey McAlpine 530 621-0455 before April 10th, please.

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Redwood Region Ornithological Society (WWW.RROS.org)

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, at 7:00 pm at the Laguna Waste Water Treatment Plant, 4300 Llano Road, Santa Rosa California, unless otherwise announced. Dues are \$20 per family, \$15 per individual or \$5 per student for a one-year membership. Send dues to RROS Treas. Don Howard, 979 Hogwarts Circle, Petaluma CA 94954.

RROS Officers

President Elaine Pruett 2 Twin Creeks Circle, Petaluma, 94952 elprue@aol.com 781-9772
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Committee Chairs

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Observations Ruth Rudesill PO Box 371, Kenwood CA 95452 ruthier@sonic.net 833-6026
Christmas Count Ruth Rudesill PO Box 371, Kenwood CA 95452 ruthier@sonic.net 833-6026
Kite Tales Betty Burrridge 1653 Arroyo Sierra, Santa Rosa 95405 bburrridge@sbcglobal.net 527-0225

Kite Tales Deadlines: Submit Observations by March. 20th to Ruth Rudesill, all other items to Editor Betty Burrridge by April 25.

WELCOME new members Janet Hamilton – Santa Rosa, and Ruth (Rudi) Dundas – Sausalito

Observations February - March 2008 – Ruth Rudesill

Bird Species	Date	Location	Co.	#	Observers	Notes
✓ Blue-winged Teal	3/9/08	Shollenberger Park	SON	3	AW	
Hooded Merganser	2/19-21/08	Pressley Rd	SON	2 pr	D&B H	
Hooded Merganser	3/9/08	flooded field north Petaluma	SON	2pr	PC	near Dollar Inn
✓ Bald Eagle	early March	Tolay Lake Park	SON	1ad	ALa	
Peregrine Falcon	3/1/08	Rail Ponds Bay Flat Rd	SON	2	MN	calling
✓ Pacific Golden-plover	3/9/08	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	AW	
✓ Common Moorhen	3/9/08	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	AW	
Rufous Hummingbird	2/20/08	Shollenberger Park	SON	1m	BDy, ALa	
✓ Nor Saw-whet Owl	2/28/08	Occidental yard	SON	1	EE fide BBU	calling
Cliff Swallow	3/9/08	Shollenberger Park	SON	5+	AW	
Violet-green Swallow	3/9/08	Henno Rd Glen Ellen	SON	2	KMu	
Northern Shrike	3/17/08	Klamath NWR	SIS	1 imm	GMu	
White-thr. Sparrow	March	Santa Rosa yard	SON	1	BBu	
White-thr. Sparrow	3/10/08	Spain St yard Sonoma	SON	1	Kmu	tan-stripe

Observers: Betty Burrige, Peter Colasanti, Bob Dyer, Emily Evans, Diane & Bryant Hichwa, Andy LaCasse, Gerry Mugele, Kathy Mugele, Mike Nelligan and Alan Wight

Great Horned Owl update – at the March RROS there was discussion about Great Horned Owls after I reported a pair had moved into a eucalyptus tree across the street from my Kenwood residence. The owls had apparently chased off the Red-shouldered Hawks that had nested there for the last several years.

I researched Great Horned Owls and found that: the female is bigger than the male, the male has the deeper voice and will call all night, the female has the higher faster voice and will answer in the courtship, and the female sits on the eggs in the nest.

The crows and robins have been harassing these owls in the early morning and evening. The male flew out this morning with a mob of crows chasing him. One of Red-shouldered Hawks came by and cried loudly in protest to the female owl but she stayed and the hawk finally left. The owls have been calling most nights lately, and the male has even been calling in the daytime. When they first moved in, the female sat on the top of one my redwoods and she is huge! (Added bonus, my neighbors and I have seen no skunks, possums or rats anywhere in the neighborhood lately!)
by Ruth Rudesill, Los Gullicos Ave, Kenwood

Rare Petrel thought extinct found near New Guinea! Per AP 3/7/08 - Beck's Petrel (*Pseudobulweria becki*) was known from two specimens found near the Solomon Islands in 1928-9 and thought to be extinct. Hadoram Shirihai led an expedition to the Bismarck Archipelago, NE of New Guinea and photographed 30 of the petrels last summer. His evidence (including a specimen) was reviewed by Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Bird Life International and found to be credible. (There were unconfirmed sightings off Australia two years ago.)

WE ARE SORRY to report the recent death of long-time RROS member Tony Kroha.

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WWW.RROS.ORG - A SUPERIOR WEBSITE

Contact NorthBayBirds Yahoo Group, get latest rare bird reports and much more

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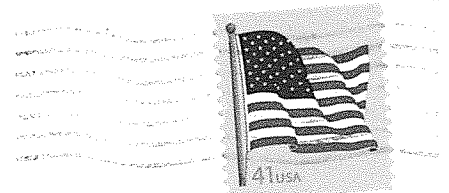
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK WILDLIFE OBSERVATIONS are being sought by sarah_stock@NPS.gov, Hardcopies, even photocopies of scribbled notebook pages can be sent to Sarah Stock, 50083 Foresta Rd., P. O. Box 700, El Portal CA 95318.

The Wildlife Management Branch at the park is interested in receiving your wildlife observations to keep that database a vital and up-to-date source of wildlife knowledge. Its legacy dates back to the year 1900 (a porcupine was sighted on Northside Drive on April 2) and includes entries by Joseph Grinnell, and Carl Sharsmith. So far there are over 10,000 entries.

Preferably the observations would be those deemed 'interesting or unusual'. If unsure you may as well include it because on some level, everything is interesting. Include: species, date, location, observer(s) and contact info, other relevant details.

KITE TALES
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APRIL 2008



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