



# Kite Tales

Volume 43 Number 9

MAY 2008

**POTLUCK/PICNIC MEETING-EVENING BIRD WALK**  
**THURSDAY MAY 8<sup>TH</sup>**

**AT SUGARLOAF RIDGE STATE PARK – 6:30 PM IN THE  
PICNIC AREA ACROSS FROM DAY USE PARKING LOT**

**DIRECTIONS:** Take Hwy 12 to Adobe Canyon Rd. (at the western edge of Kenwood). Drive north to State Park contact station, **pay entry fee or display pass**, and park in Day Use Lot 100 yards ahead. Look for RROS at picnic area across from parking lot. Bring food, plates, utensils, beverages, and binoculars. (And a warm jacket, I think.)

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**NEW SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR '08 – '09 ELECTED IN APRIL**

- PRESIDENT – RHIO REIGH**
- VICE-PRESIDENT – TERRY HAAG**
- SECRETARY – ELAINE PRUETT**
- TREASURER – DON HOWARD**

Carol Brant takes over as Kite Tales editor, Ellen Blustein continues as Field Trip Chair, as does Ruth Rudesill as Observations Chair & CBC Compiler.

MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO SERVED IN '07 – '08 AND  
CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE SERVING IN '08 – '09.

## FIELD TRIP

**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.

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## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### Anza Borrego State Park and environs - March 27 - 30, 2008

Six RROS members took three vehicles to converge on Anza Borrego State Park. Leader Peter Colasanti and Don Howard previewed from Needles down the Colorado River to the park via Salton Sea, returning via Tijuana Valley NWR. Rick Lebaudour and Richard Merris birded Morongo Valley en route; Karen Nagel and Shirley Spina planned to hit Morongo on the return.

First day highlights included a flock of Greater White-fronted Geese over waterless desert at Carrizo Creek, three species of orioles, Lincoln's Sparrow and multiple Common Yellowthroats in spare mesquite at Agua Caliente County Park.

Day two we ascended Montezuma Grade, birding down to Tamarisk Campground via San Felipe Grade. Desert specialties were White-winged & Common Ground-Doves, Cactus & Rock Wrens, Brewer's, Vesper & Black-throated Sparrows, and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers with Nuttall's higher up. Early migrant Bell's and Cassin's Vireos and Black-throated Gray Warbler were found too, as were all three Goldfinches.

Rick Lebaudour led day three to the Salton Sea, starting at Cattle Call Park in Brawley, which yielded Gila Woodpecker, Gray Vireo, Lucy's Warbler and Abert's Towhee. Later stops were at "Lack Lindsay", Sonny Bono NWR, Red Hill Marina, and anyplace we couldn't bear to drive by. Lesser Scaup, Redhead, Gull-billed Tern and Yellow-footed Gull were working the open water and thirteen species of shorebird probed the flats.

Day four opened with a search for LeConte's Thrasher at Clark Dry Lake. Instead we found a flock of 6 Sage Thrashers. We all got looks at a Roadrunner playing chicken with Rick's rig, and even better looks when we stopped and it responded to playback. The best of the day was a 4WD stream-fording ascent to the Lower Willows of Coyote Cañon. About halfway we all stopped for a Lark Sparrow and simultaneously pulled out our cameras; the floral display was too good to pass by. Up at the willows we picked up a Virginia Rail, lots of Costa's and a nice Rufous Hummer, and also many neotropical passerines, including a Black-headed Grosbeak.

Swainson's Hawks were migrating through. It seems that they lollygag between Borrego Springs and the airport to eat the big yellow Sphinx Moth caterpillars all over the sandy soil. We saw as many as 50 at one time and it was a revelation to realize how many dark morph Swainson's head north from there.

All in all, 148 species were observed over the four days of the tour and at least 188 overall, including the trips down and back to the Birdiest County in the Union.

**A complete list of birds on this field trip is attached to minutes of May '08 meeting.**

**Find the report on the Field Trip to King Ridge Road (April 13<sup>th</sup>) on page 4.**

**Redwood Region Ornithological Society** ([WWW.RROS.ORG](http://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**

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**Committee Chairs**

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**Kite Tales Deadlines:** Submit Observations by August. 20th<sup>th</sup> to: Ruth Rudesill, all other items to: Editor Carol Brant by August 25.

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**Observations** March - April 2008 - Ruth Rudesill

Bird Species	Date	Location	Co.	#	Observers	Notes
✓ Cackling Goose	3/30/08	Bodega Farm pond	SON	10	LLu, CLu	8 Aleutian
✓ Long-tailed Duck	3/30/08	Bodega Harbor channel	SON	1f	LLu, CLu	
Common Merganser	4/2/08	mouth Doran Creek	SON	1m	DF	
✓ American Bittern	4/16/08	Shollenberger Park	SON	2	BDy	
✓ Bald Eagle	4/4/08	Duncan's Mills	SON	1 imm	DB, PC	
✓ Common Black Hawk	4/14/08	Laguna area	SON	1	SMo	back again
✓ Swainson's Hawk	4/20/08	Tolay Park area	SON	2	PCola	
✓ Lesser Yellowlegs	4/12/08	nw Shollenberger Park	SON	1	RMe	
✓ Red Knot	4/2/08	Doran bayside	SON	1	DF	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	4/17/08	Ukiah STP	MEN	1	CV	alt plumage
Eurasian Collared-Dove	4/2/08	Sonoma yard	SON	2	BMc	
✓ Barred Owl	3/23-29/08	Armstrong Redwoods SP	SON	1	SC, LLu, CLu	photographed
Calliope Hummingbird	3/28/08	Ukiah yard	MEN	1m	CV	
Ash-throated Flycatcher	4/16/08	Sonoma Valley Reg Park	SON	1	KMu	
California Thrasher	4/12/08	Geyserville	SON	1	TE	
Orange-crowned Warbler	3/27/08	Joe Rodota Trail Seb	SON	1	DF	
Orange-crowned Warbler	4/16/08	Sonoma Valley Reg Park	SON	2	KMu	
✓ Townsend's Warbler	4/4/08	Duncan's Mills	SON	1m	DB, PC	singing
Chipping Sparrow	4/10/08	Coleman Valley Rd	SON	1	PP	
White-throated Sparrow	3/30-4/12/08	Kenwood yard	SON	1	RAR	calling
White-throated Sparrow	4/12/08	Sonoma yard	SON	1	BMc	calling
White-throated Sparrow	4/16/08	Spain St yard Sonoma	SON	1	KMu	continuing
Cassin's Finch	4/8/08	Ukiah yard	MEN	1m	CV	

**Observers:** Dennis Beall, Suzanne Cogen, Peter Colasanti, Pam Conley, Bob Dyer, Tiffany Erickson, Dea Freid, Cindy & Les Lieurance, Bob McLean, Richard Merriss, Stan Moore, Kathy Mugele, Phil Persons, Ruth Rudesill, and Chuck Vaughn .

**Field Trip Report - King Ridge Road** - April 13, 2008 - 8am-3:30pm -We had a beautiful day which included 2 bakeries, a wrong turn and back track, great wildflowers, butterflies and 50 species of birds. Some highlights include nesting American Dipper, calling Sooty Grouse roused by Lisa Hug, Pileated Woodpecker and Chipping sparrow.

**Participants:** Becky & Steve Turley, Elmarie Hutchinson, Phil Persons, Bob Speckels, Peter Colasanti, Don Howard, Elaine Pruett, Jack & Deyea Harper, Jim Castle, Charlene Burge, Don Reinberg, Richard Hurley, Carol Brant, Jim Clegg, Don Kirker, Helen Kochenderfer, Betty Groce, Carolyn Longstreth, Betty Burrige, Mike Nelligan, Rhio Reigh, Ellen Blustein, Lisa Hug

**Butterflies observed:** Sara Orangetips, California Ringlet, Veined White, Green Hairstreak, Brown Elf, Variable Checkerspot, Tiger Swallowtail, Pale Swallowtail. Ellen Blustein

A complete list of birds on this field trip is attached to minutes of May '08 meeting.

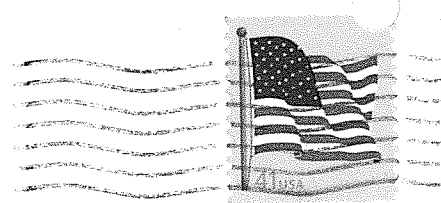
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**Welcome New Member: Elmarie Hutchinson**

**EMAIL OR SNAIL MAIL (USPS)? That is the question!**

**Please consider receiving Kite Tales by e-mail for convenience and to save RROS \$\$\$\$. Contact Don Howard at binkybunji2@comcast.net**

**KITE TALES**  
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**MAY 2008**



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