



# Kite Tales

Volume 44 Number 3

NOVEMBER 2008

## November 13<sup>th</sup> - General Meeting

**Our November presenter is Stacy Martinelli**, a wildlife biologist with California Department of Fish and Game. She will talk about the ecology of marbled murrelets in California. This will include a discussion of general life history, nesting habitat requirements and behavior, current and projected population trends, and state and federal regulations to protect this declining species in California.

**How about dinner before the meetings?** Meet at 5:30 p. m. at Star Restaurant, 8501 Gravenstein Hwy, Cotati (just west of Hwy 101, at exit for Hwy 116 West.)

**Directions to the meeting:** 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.

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### **SANTA ROSA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - SUN. DEC. 21st**

Ruth Rudesill - (707) 833-6026 - who compiles our Christmas Bird Count asks RROS members and their birding friends to participate. Please contact Ruth.

**ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE** - \$20 per family, \$15 per individual, \$5 students  
Send to Don Howard, 979 Hogwarts Circle, Petaluma, CA 94954

**RROS EVENTS CALENDAR****Saturday, November 8 - Field Trip to the Sonoma Coast.**

Meet leader Mike Parmeter at the Bakery in Duncan's Mills on the south side of Hwy 116 at 8am. Be ready to depart at 8:15 am. We will bird around the Russian River and coastal spots. Bring binoculars, spotting scopes, field guides, lunch, water, sunscreen, warm clothes. Questions: call Ellen Blustein 707-789-0970

**Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup> - RRROS General Meeting**

**Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup> - RRROS General Meeting** - Members' photo night - Bring slides or digital pictures, especially of birds likely or unlikely to be seen on Christmas Counts.

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**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 RRROS Treas. Don Howard, 979 Hogwarts Circle, Petaluma CA 94954.

**RRROS 2008-2009 Board of Directors****RRROS Officers**

President Rhio Reigh	1604 Austin Way, Santa Rosa 95404	<a href="mailto:rhioreigh@juno.com">rhioreigh@juno.com</a>	579-3400
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Treas. Don Howard	979 Hogwarts Circle, Petaluma 94954	<a href="mailto:binkybunji2@comcast.net">binkybunji2@comcast.net</a>	778-0407

**Committee Chairs**

Field Trips	Ellen Blustein	102 Marylyn Cir., Petaluma 94954	<a href="mailto:ellenblustein@sbcglobal.net">ellenblustein@sbcglobal.net</a>	789-0970
Observations	Ruth Rudesill	PO Box 371, Kenwood CA 95452	<a href="mailto:ruthier@sonic.net">ruthier@sonic.net</a>	833-6026
Christmas Count	Ruth Rudesill	PO Box 371, Kenwood CA 95452	<a href="mailto:ruthier@sonic.net">ruthier@sonic.net</a>	833-6026
Kite Tales	Carol Brant	211 Florence Ave., Sebastopol 95472	<a href="mailto:cwbrant@sonic.net">cwbrant@sonic.net</a>	823-2806

**Kite Tales Deadlines:** Submit observations to Ruth Rudesill, all other items to Carol Brant by 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**FIELD TRIP REPORT - Bodega Bay and Harbor, Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> - Ken Wilson**

Our field trip began, after the usual preliminaries, at Campbell Cove where the weather was warm with a light but cold breeze from the north. We were entertained early in the morning by a Kestrel attacking a Merlin amidst the hordes of Yellow-rumped Warblers that make this part of the coast their winter home. These sightings were soon joined by a Yellow Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Lincoln's Sparrow and a House Wren. Our next stop on Bodega Head was for some the highlights of the day, if not for the Pigeon Guillemots, Rhinoceros Auklet, groups of Scaup and Surf Scoters flying south, one of which contained a Long-tailed Duck, then for the large group of, up to twenty five Humpback Whales which fed upon the apparently abundant food just offshore. Additional sightings from 'The Head' were a group of Elegant Terns, many hundreds of distant gulls feeding near the whales, Surfbirds, Black Turnstones, Black Oystercatchers and both Pelagic and Brants Cormorants feeding and roosting on the rocks close to shore. Inside the harbor we observed both species of pelicans and large numbers of shorebirds including Short-billed Dowitchers, Sanderlings, Black-bellied Plovers and Semi-palmated Plovers. Western Grebes, Eared Grebes, Pied-billed Grebes and Greater Scaup all rested in the calm waters at the north end of the harbor. Our total count at the end of the 'official' field trip was eighty-six species. Some members of the group continued on to Doran Beach.

**Participants:** Jack and Deyea Harper, Mike Parmeter, Don Kirker, Bob Speckles, Helen Kochenderfer, Peter Colasanti, Craig Roth, Dea Freid, Jim Fritzhand, Jean and Ruth Tonascia, Don Reinberg, Becky Olsen and Ken Wilson. Continued on page 3

**Birds observed:** Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, American White Pelican, Brown Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Brandt's Cormorant, Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, Greater White-fronted Goose, Greater Scaup, Long-tailed Duck, Surf Scoter, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, American Kestrel, Merlin, Wild Turkey, California Quail, Virginia Rail, American Coot, Black Oystercatcher, Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Short-billed Dowitcher, Marbled Godwit, Willet, Ruddy Turnstone, Black Turnstone, Surfbird, Sanderling, Western Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Heermann's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, Western Gull, Elegant Tern, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Rhinoceros Auklet, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Western Wood-Pewee, Black Phoebe, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Bewick's Wren, Winter Wren, House Wren, Marsh Wren, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Bushtit, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Western Scrub-Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, European Starling, House Sparrow, Hutton's Vireo, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Spotted Towhee, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Bullock's Oriole.

### Observations - October 2008 - Report by Ruth Rudesill

Bird Species	Date	Location	Co.	#	Observers	Notes
✓ Greater Wh-fronted Goose	10/13/08	Bodega Farm pond	SON	2	DF	
✓ Brant	8/31-9/14/08	boat launch Doran Park	SON	1	BDP TE AW	
✓ Brant	9/19-20/08	off Campbell Cove	SON	2	BDP, AW, RLeb, RMe	
✓ Cackling Goose	10/5/08	Bay Hill Rd	SON	40	RoM	Aleutian
✓ Cackling Goose	10/8-9/08	Spring Lake lagoon	SON	12+	RAR	
✓ Blue-winged Teal	9/20/08	Shollenberger Park	SON	3	BDP, AW, RLe, RMe	
✓ Hooded Merganser	8/31/08	Bodega Farm pond	SON	2	BDP, TE, AW	
✓ Hooded Merganser	9/21/08	Bodega Farm pond	SON	1f	BDo	
✓ Hooded Merganser	10/7/08	Bodega Farm pond	SON	1	KWi	
✓ Long-tailed Duck	10/11/08	off Bodega Head	SON	1	KWi, BDP	
✓ Buller's Shearwater	10/1/08	off Bodega Head	SON	3	AW	
✓ Buller's Shearwater	10/11/08	off Bodega Head	SON	2	CLu, LLu, SC	
Sooty Shearwater	9/30/08	off Bodega Head	SON	1	BMc	
✓ Black-vented Shearwater	9/26-30/08	off Bodega Head	SON	30+	BDP, DHo, BSp mob	
✓ Brown Pelican	8/15/08	Lake Hennessey	SON	1	BDP	young bird
✓ White-faced Ibis	10/5/08	Gaffney Pt Bodega Harbor	SON	6	J&RTo	
Osprey	10/09/08	Spring Lake Park	SON	1	RAR	soaring
✓ Rough-legged Hawk	10/20/08	Middle Two Rock Rd	SON	1	CS	
Merlin	9/29/08	Bay Hill Road	SON	1	DHo	
Merlin	10/11/08	Campbell Cove	SON	1	BDP, KWi	
Peregrine Falcon	9/14/08	Campbell Cove	SON	1	BDP	anatum ssp
Peregrine Falcon	9/25/08	Ragle Ranch Park	SON	1 juv	TM	
✓ Prairie Falcon	10/4/08	Tolay Lake Reg Park	SON	1	ALa, PCola	
✓ Black Rail	9/20/08	Petaluma Marsh	SON	1	BDP, AW, RLe, RMe	calling
✓ Clapper Rail	9/20/08	Petaluma Marsh	SON	1	BDP, AW, RLe, RMe	calling
✓ Pacific Golden-Plover	9/20-21/08	Shollenberger Park	SON	1-2	BDP, AW, RLe, RMe, CS	
✓ Pacific Golden-Plover	10/15/08	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	LB	
✓ Spotted Sandpiper	9/20/08	Petaluma River slough	SON	1	BDP, AW, RLeb, RMe	
✓ Lesser Yellowlegs	8/6/08	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	BDP, RS	
✓ Red Knot	8/31/08	Smith Brothers Rd	SON	7	BDP TE AW	
✓ Red Knot	9/20/08	SE Bodega Harbor	SON	3	BDP, AW, RLeb, RMe	
✓ Red Knot	9/27/08	Spud Point	SON	1	BS	
✓ Pectoral Sandpiper	9/27/08	Bodega Farm Pond	SON	1	BS	
✓ Pectoral Sandpiper	10/7/08	Bodega Farm Pond	SON	1	KWi	
Dunlin	9/20/08	SE Bodega harbor	SON	2	BDP AW RLeb, RMe	
✓ Ruff	9/22/08	Bodega Farm pond	SON	1	DHo	
✓ Sabine's Gull	10/11/08	off Bodega Head	SON	6	CLu, LLu, SC	
✓ Elegant Tern	9/7/08	Spud Point	SON	2	BDP, TE	
✓ Elegant Tern	10/11/08	off Bodega Head	SON	6	BDP, KWi	

Continued page 4

✓ Pomarine Jaeger	10/12/08	off Bodega Head	SON	2	CLu, LLu, SC	dark phase
✓ Parasitic Jaeger	9/20/08	off Bodega Head	SON	1	RLeb	
✓ Marbled Murrelet	9/20/08	offshore Jenner	SON	2 pr	BDP, AW, RLeb, RMe	
✓ Rhinoceros Auklet	9/19/08	off Bodega Head	SON	1	BDP	
✓ Rhinoceros Auklet	10/11/08	off Bodega Head	SON	1	CLu, LLu, SC, BDP	
Barn Owl	9/7/08	Campbell Cove	SON	1	BDP, TE, RAR	
W. Screech-owl	10/6/08	Napa yard	NAP	1	BDP	
✓ Spotted owl	8/31/08	Salmon Creek Rd	SON	1	BDP, TE, AW	calling
✓ Nor. Saw-whet Owl	8/31/08	Salmon Creek Rd	SON	2	BDP, TE, AW	
✓ Vaux's Swift	9/14/08	Campbell Cove	SON	2	BDP	
✓ Bl-chinned Hummingbird	9/22/08	Owl Canyon	SON	1 juv m	RAR	
✓ <b>Williamson's Sapsucker</b>	<b>9/25-26/08</b>	<b>W Dry Creek Rd</b>	<b>SON</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>PHe</b>	<b>1st County record</b>
✓ Olive-sided Flycatcher	9/20/08	nw Campbell Cove	SON	1	BDP, AW, RLeb, RMe	
Willow Flycatcher	8/29/08	Campbell Cove	SON	1	BDP	
✓ Tropical Kingbird	9/25-10/3/08	Campbell Cove	SON	1-2	KM, DHa, BDo, DH, BDP	
✓ Tropical Kingbird	10/20/08	Campbell Cove	SON	2	BDP, DHa	same ones?
Oak Titmouse	9/7/08	Campbell Cove	SON	1	BDP, TE, RAR	
✓ House Wren	9/14-26/08	Campbell Cove	SON	1-3	BDP, AW, RLeb, RMe	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	9/14/08	Campbell Cove	SON	1	BDP	
Swainson's Thrush	9/26-30/08	Campbell Cove	SON	5-6	BDP, DHo	
Hermit Thrush	10/5/08	Campbell Cove	SON	1	BDP	
✓ Gray Catbird	9/16/08	Owl Canyon	SON	1	DHo, DN, BDP	
✓ Tennessee Warbler	9/17/08	Bodega Marine Lab. Ent	SON	1	DHo, DN	
Tennessee Warbler	10/5/08	Mendoza Ranch	MRN	1	RAR	
Orange-crowned Warbler	9/14/08	Bodega Marine Lab Ent	SON	1	BDP	gray headed race
✓ Chestnut Sided Warbler	9/14/08	Campbell Cove	SON	1	BDP	
✓ Chesnut-sided Warbler	9/23/08	Spring Lake Park	SON	1f	VB	
✓ Magnolia Warbler	9/23/08	Ragle Ranch Park	SON	1	BDo	
Black-thr Blue Warbler	10/1-5/08	Fish Docks	MRN	1m	DF, RAR, LB, mob	
Blackburnian Warbler	10/1/08	Fish Docks	MRN	1	DF	
Palm Warbler	10/3-5/08	Fish Docks	MRN	1	RAR mob	
Palm Warbler	10/5/08	Mendoza Ranch	MRN	1	RAR	
✓ Palm Warbler	10/12/08	Rail ponds	SON	1	LLu, CLu	
✓ Palm Warbler	10/17/08	on boat Bodega Canyon	SON	1	DLS	about 15 miles offshore
✓ Blackpoll Warbler	9/17/08	Marine Lab. Housing	SON	1	DHo, DN, KM	
Blackpoll Warbler	10/1-18/08	Fish Docks	MRN	2	LB, DF, BDP mob	
Blackpoll Warbler	10/5/08	Mendoza Ranch	MRN	1	RAR	
✓ Black and White Warbler	9/16-17/08	Owl Canyon	SON	1	DHo, DN, BDP	
Black and White Warbler	9/18/08	Fish Docks	MRN	1m	BDP	
✓ American Redstart	9/14-29/08	Campbell Cove	SON	1-2	DHo, DN, BDP, RAR	
✓ American Redstart	9/16/08	Owl Canyon	SON	2	BDP, DHo, DN	
American Redstart	9/18/08	Fish Docks	MRN	2	BDP	
✓ American Redstart	9/20/08	Marine Lab Entrance	SON	1	JRo	
Prothonotary Warbler	10/3-9/08	Fish Docks	MRN	1	DF, BGr, RAR mob	
✓ Northern Waterthrush	9/14-22/08	Campbell Cove	SON	1	DHo, BDP, RAR	
✓ <b>Mourning Warbler</b>	<b>9/30/08</b>	<b>Campbell Cove</b>	<b>SON</b>	<b>1 f juv</b>	<b>DHo, BDP</b>	<b>1st County Record</b>
✓ MacGillivray's Warbler	9/20/08	Owl Canyon	SON	1	JRo	
✓ Canada Warbler	10/11-15/08	Bay Flat Rd Bodega Bay	SON	1	CLu, LLu, RAR, DHo mob	
✓ Black-throated Sparrow	10/11-12/08	Healdsburg feeder	SON	1	GR, BDP	
Fox Sparrow	9/14/08	Owl Canyon	SON	2	BDP	1st of year
✓ Fox Sparrow	10/10/08	Sebastopol yard	SON	1	RoM	Slate-colored race
White-throated Sparrow	10/13/08	Sonoma Valley Park	SON	1	RAR	calling

**Observers:** Len Blumin, Veronica Bowers, Carol Brant, Suzanne Cogen, Bill Doyle, Dea Freid, Betty Groce, Deyea Harper, Phil Henderson, David Hofmann, Andy Lacasse, Rick Lebaudour, Cindy & Les Lieurance, Roger Marlowe, Bob McLean, Richard Merriss, Terrie Miller, Kathy Mugele, Dan Nelson, BD "Mike" Parmeter, Gail Roper, Jim Rowoth, Ruth Rudesill, Chris Selvig, Debra Love Shearwater, Robert Speckels, Rich Stallcup, Jean Tonascia, Ruth Tonascia, Alan Wight and Ken Wilson.

**Congratulations to Mike Parmeter for his 400<sup>th</sup> County Bird - the Mourning Warbler! And the Black-throated Sparrow was #401!**

**RROS Review of Books**

**Birds of Northern California by Guy McCaskie, Paul De Benedictis, Richard Erickson and Joe Morlan**

This 108 page book, published by Golden Gate Audubon, contains useful information about the status and distribution of the birds found in the northern part of the state. Easy-to-read bar graphs illustrate the abundance of native species throughout the seasons. This volume was originally published in 1970, then was updated in 1988 and amended with additional material. This second edition with the supplement is out of print but can now be downloaded for free at: [http://www.goldengateaudubon.org/html/birdresources/birdresources\\_main.htm](http://www.goldengateaudubon.org/html/birdresources/birdresources_main.htm)

Direct link:

<http://www.goldengateaudubon.org/PDFs/BirdsNorthernCalifornia.pdf>

This eBook is about 20 mb so a broadband connection is recommended.

If anyone is interested in updating this book, please contact me off list. We have an editable word processor version that could provide a solid basis for anyone who may want to write an updated version. Special thanks to Richard Duggan for scanning the original and to Golden Gate Audubon for web hosting.

Joseph Morlan, Pacifica, CA

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**The Owl and the Woodpecker by Paul Bannick**

Sounds like a nursery rhyme no? Oh wait, that was the owl and the pussycat. Anyway, it's a really stunning book with great text and AMAZING photos. What is so special about this book is that the photos show the birds in action, not just standing on a perch looking pretty. I posted a full review on Amazon.com if anyone wants to read more and see a preview of the book:

<http://tinyurl.com/5s2x6l>

and you can also find out more here:

The Owl and the Woodpecker: Encounters with North America's Most Iconic Birds

<<http://www.paulbannick.com/OwlandWoodpecker.pdf>><http://www.paulbannick.com/OwlandWoodpecker.pdf>

I just really think this book is special, as well as educational about conservation and ecology in a very accessible way.

Maggie Rufo, Novato

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**Welcome new member – Veronica Bowers, Sebastopol**

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**Birding Access at the “Fish Dock” Residence – message from Joe Morlan**

I have been negotiating with the park administration regarding access at the “Fish Dock” residence near the parking lot for Chimney Rock at Point Reyes. Unfortunately a few thoughtless birders invaded the private area around the house, which led the current residents to add new signs and restrictions. (Continued page 6)

I am pleased to report that I have received word from Colin Smith, the chief ranger at Point Reyes National Seashore, that the old birding access rules have been restored and the new signs have been removed.

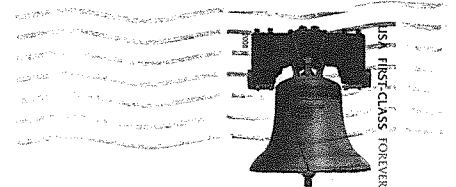
This does not mean that birders can go wherever they want. As before, birders are allowed access to the trees in the surrounding quad, and the primitive trails under the trees, as well as the paved road in front of the house. The water tank area should only be accessed via the portion of the rear driveway up to where it reaches the last detached garage, or from inside the tree line just inside the entrance gate. Please do not cut or traverse the fence behind the water tank as that area is being revegetated. Access to the GARDEN, YARD and IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THE HOUSE IS NOT, AND NEVER HAS BEEN PERMITTED. The park employees who live in the house are entitled to privacy. Please respect their privacy rights at all times and do not point your binoculars toward the house. If you see anybody infringing on these rules, please help by letting them know what the rules are. If we police ourselves, it's better for everybody.

Thank you all for your cooperation.

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**KITE TALES**  
**979 Hogwarts Circle**  
**Petaluma CA 94954**

**November 2008**



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