



Kite Tales

Volume 44 Number 5

Jan. 2009

January 8th, General Meeting – 7:00 PM

Lisa Hug: “Gulls, Glorious Gulls!”

Identifying gulls can be an intimidating procedure! But there are some simple rules that can help one feel more comfortable around gulls and gain the confidence to work on gull identification skills. Attending this talk will not make you an expert gull-watcher over night, but it should give you a system for sorting through gulls and not letting them intimidate you from accepting the challenge of gull identification.

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

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.

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RROS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, January 8th – General Meeting

Saturday, January 10th – Field Trip to Las Gallinas Sewage Ponds

Las Gallinas is a favorite spot for Marin birders and is in North San Rafael. A series of water treatment ponds surrounded by marshland to the south and grassy ag fields to the north. The walk will take us out to the salt marshes along the bay. Continued on page 2

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This area is not on any CBC. We'll find a diversity of winter land and water birds. Heading back toward Sonoma we might visit Bahia to look at the new Marin Audubon restoration and to look for Goldeneyes, a few Barrows have been wintering there, then a stop at Rush Creek should include most of East Marin's bird species.

Meet in Petaluma at the park & ride at the 116-Lakeville exit of Hwy 101, on the east side of HWY 101, at 8:30 am to carpool or meet in the parking lot of the Las Gallinas Sewage ponds at 9 am. Bring optics, H2O, food, sunscreen, hat, layers, etc. Leader Jim White: Questions: Ellen Blustein - 707-789-0970

Directions to Las Gallinas ponds: From north on 101 take Smith Ranch Rd east, (it's Lucas Valley to the West) turn left just after crossing the RR tracks to park at the end.

Thursday, February 12th - General Meeting - Matthew Matthiessen: "Uganda"

Saturday, February 14th - Field Trip to Southern Sonoma County

Sonoma Baylands, Skaggs Island Road and other locations. Meet 8am at Port Sonoma. The Port Sonoma Marina is just west of Lakeville Hwy on Hwy 37. Turn south into the Marina Drive all the way down to the Petaluma River. Park in the lot nearest the water.

Bring binoculars, scopes, field guides, lunch, H2O, sunscreen, warm clothes.

Leaders: Helen Kochenderfer and Bill Doyle. Heavy rain cancels. Questions: Ellen Blustein 707-789-0970

Thursday March 12th - General Meeting - Stephen Shunk: "Woodpeckers"

Saturday March 14th - Woodpeckers in the Wild Workshop

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Join Oregon naturalist and woodpecker expert Steve Shunk for a day with the woodpeckers of central California. In this field workshop, we will observe the dynamic behaviors of our resident and migrant woodpecker species. Steve will share his enthusiasm and expertise in woodpecker natural history as we study foraging techniques, communication styles, and social dynamics. We will search for up to 8 woodpecker species, while we will observe signs of woodpecker carpentry and discuss current ecology and conservation issues facing the woodpecker populations of our region.

Location: Annadel State Park

Cost: \$70 per person, maximum of 12 participants, minimum of 4 participants.

Pre-register by calling Steve at 541-408-1753 or emailing steve@paradisebirding.com.

Friday-Sunday, March 13-15 - Field Trip to Susanville and environs

This will be a great rural birding weekend. The highlight will be searching for Sage
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Grouse leks. We will have time to bird a number of areas. We will be staying at River Inn 1710 Main St. Susanville 530-257-6051. Call for reservations. A more detailed write up will follow. Leader: Rick Le Baudour 707-974-0004, 707-935-3654

Saturday, April 18 - Field Trip to Mitchell Canyon

May - Field Trip to Pine Flat Road

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 2008-2009 Board of Directors

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 Kite Tales Carol Brant 211 Florence Ave., Sebastopol 95472 cwbrant@sonic.net 823-2806

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

Observations

December

Report by Ruth Rudesill

<u>Bird Species</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Co.</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Observers</u>	<u>Notes</u>
✓ Snow Goose	12/6/08	Hudemann Slough	SON	1ad	BD, HK	
✓ Snow Goose	12/7/08	Bodega Farm Pond	SON	1juv	BD, HK	
✓ Canada/White-fronted Goose	12/25/08	Spring Lake Reg Park	SON	1	RAR	hybrid
✓ Cackling Goose	12/25/08	Spring Lake lagoon	SON	3	RAR	
✓ Blue-winged Teal	12/10/08	Shollenberger Park	SON	10	BDy	
✓ Canvasback	12/25/08	bodega Farm Pond	SON	14	DF	
✓ Barrow's Goldeneye	12/19-21/08	Spring Lake	SON	1-3f	RAR, BD, HK	
✓ Yellow-billed Loon	to 11/30/08	Bodega Harbor	SON	1imm	LB, mob	
✓ Zone-tailed Hawk	12/09/08	over El Verano/Sonoma	SON	1	RLe	1st County Record
✓ Bald Eagle	12/9/08	near Delta Pond	SON	1ad	BD	
✓ Rough-legged Hawk	12/8/08	Skaggs Island	SOL	1	BD, HK	
✓ Rough-legged Hawk	12/12/08	Hwy 37 near Port of Sonoma	SON	1	RAR	
✓ Crested Caracara	12/14/08	Hwy 121 near airport	SON	1	LF	no details
Merlin	12/7/08	Fulton Rd	SON	1	DSh	
✓ Prairie Falcon	12/13/08	Laguna de Santa Rosa	SON	1	TM	
✓ Prairie Falcon	12/16/08	Hwy 116 near dump	SON	1	KMu	
✓ Pacific Golden-Plover	12/10/08	Ellis Creek Marsh	SON	2	BDy	

✓ Glaucous Gull	12/7/08	Duncan's Landing	SON	1	BD, HK
✓ Lewis's Woodpecker	12/21/08	Spring Lake Reg Park	SON	1	KK, RAR
Acorn Woodpecker	12/24/08	Spring Lake Reg park	SON	1	BD golden crowned
Tree Swallow	12/21/08	Spring Lake	SON	6	KK, RAR
✓ Western Tanager	12/21-23/08	Santa Rosa	SON	1-2	BBu
✓ Orange-crowned Warbler	12/25/08	Petaluma yard	SON	1	AW
✓ Hermit Warbler	12/22/08	Bennett Valley Rd	SON	1	KWi
Fox Sparrow	11/20/08	Occidental yard	SON	1	RoM
White-throated Sparrow	11/20/08	Occidental yard	SON	1	RoM
White-throated Sparrow	11/24/08	Pine Flat Rd	SON	1	GC
White-throated Sparrow	12/27/08	Willowside Trail	SON	1	BD, HK
✓ Harris's Sparrow	12/20/08	Occidental yard	SON	1	RoM
✓ Indigo Bunting	12/22/08	Santa Rosa yard	SON	1	BBu
✓ Red Crossbill	11/22/08	Hood Mt Reg Park	SON	24+	RAR

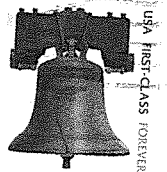
Observers: Len Blumin, Betty Burrige, Graham Chisholm, Bill Doyle, Bob Dyer, Leslie Flint, Dea Freid, Helen Kochenderfer, Kim Kuska, Rick LeBaudour, Roger Marlowe, Terrie Miller, Kathy Mugele, Ruth A Rudesill, Doug Shaw, Alan Wight, and Ken Wilson

Correction: Last month reported that the Manx Shearwater seen on Nov 16 was the 1st County Record but it was not. A Manx Shearwater was seen near Bodega Canyon last April.

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Thank you to all who have contributed to Kite Tales - keep the submissions coming!

KITE TALES
979 Hogwarts Circle
Petaluma CA 94954
Jan. 2009



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