



Kite Tales

Volume 44 Number 6

February 2009

Matthew Matthiessen, our speaker for the Thursday, February 12th General Meeting, introduces himself and gives a preview of his Ugandan talk/slide show:

I traveled to Uganda in Aug 2005. My travels were limited to the southern half of the country as the northern parts were too dangerous. The Nile River (which runs east/west in Uganda) roughly splits the country in half. We began along the Nile (including Murchison Falls) and worked south to Kibale National Park, Queen Elizabeth National Park, and finally to the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest searching for Mountain Gorillas. I saw about 550 species of birds during my 18 day trip including some rare ones and more than half of the Albertine Rift endemics. In addition to the birds I saw many mammals.

I began birding when I was eight and living in Bangkok, Thailand with my family.

Birding disappeared from my life during my teen years but I picked it up again in my early 20s when I found myself living in Zambia with nothing much to do for entertainment. It's been an integral part of my life ever since. Obviously I've birded Thailand and Zambia. In addition, I've birded significantly in Zimbabwe, Kenya, Uganda, and Cameroon in Africa. In Asia I've been limited to India and Borneo in addition to Thailand. In South America I've been to Venezuela twice and once each to Ecuador and Peru. In North America I've birded Mexico, Guatemala, the Bahamas, and Jamaica in addition to the US.

How about dinner before the meeting? 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. Proceed to Administration Bldg. at SE corner of the plant. From Hwy. 12, take Llano Rd. south about 3 miles.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Christine Engel - Santa Rosa
Jocelyn Gardner - Sebastopol

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

GENERAL MEETING - Thursday February 12th - 7:00 p.m.

FIELD TRIP - Saturday February 14th - Southern Sonoma County

Sonoma Baylands, Skaggs Island Road and other locations. Meet 8 am 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

GENERAL MEETING - Thursday March 12th - Stephen Shunk of Paradise Birding will present "Southern California: Cactus Blossoms and Spring Migration".

FIELD TRIP - Friday - Sunday, March 13, 14, 15 Susanville area.

Meet 8 am River Inn Motel, Susanville.

Possible itinerary: Friday; Honey Lake- Dakin & Fleming Units for waterbirds
Town of Janesville, Lewis's Woodpecker; Janesville Grade, Mountain birds.

Saturday; Sage Grouse Lek 10 miles out of Susanville, Foothills near Wendel,
grassland birds, Chuckar, Prairie Falcon, Sage Sparrow.

Sunday: Birding on the way home. Possible locations; Eagle Lake, Chester, Lake Almanor.
We should have plenty of Golden Eagles, Bald Eagles and Geese on this trip.

Leader: Rick Le Baudour 707-974-0004 or 707-935-3654. Call Rick to get your name on
the trip list. He needs a head count and car count 1 week prior to the trip, please, confirm
and provide your cell phone contact. Extreme weather could cancel.

Be prepared for cold weather, warm clothes, layers, hats, sunscreen, H2O, Field lunch &
snacks, optics, field guides. Breakfast and Dinner out. Lunch in the field.

River Inn Motel, Susanville 530-257-6051. The motel is holding 6 nonsmoking double
rooms, until March 1, for us at their best rate. Rooms have microwave & fridge. 24 hr.
cancellation.

WORKSHOP - Saturday March 14th - Woodpeckers in the Wild 9 a.m. - 4 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

FIELD TRIP - Saturday April 18 - Mitchell Canyon**FIELD TRIP - May - 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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 Christmas Count Ruth Rudesill PO Box 371, Kenwood CA 95452 ruthier@sonic.net 833-6026
 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.

FIELD TRIP REPORT by Jim White -Las Gallinas Sewage Ponds and Bahia, Jan. 10, 2009

It was a clear, sunny day. Highlights include seeing the Eurasian Green-winged Teal and the Barrow's Goldeneye in excellent light conditions – beautiful!

Birds observed: Pied-billed Grebe, Western Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Canada Goose, Rudy Duck, American Widgeon, Mallard, Northern Shoveler, Ring-necked Duck, Green-winged Teal, Eurasian Green-winged Teal, Hooded Merganser, American Coot, Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Black-necked Stilt, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Killdeer, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, Eared Grebe, Common Goldeneye, Barrow's Goldeneye, Cackling Goose, Bufflehead, Eurasian Wigeon, Gadwall, Northern Pintail, Greater Scaup, Cinnamon Teal, Canvasback, Virginia Rail, Great Egret, Green Heron, Great Blue Heron, American Avocet, Long-billed Curlew, Willet, Dunlin, Mew Gull, Lesser Scaup, Glaucous-winged Gull, White-tailed Kite, Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Harrier, Red-shouldered Hawk, American Kestrel, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Western Scrub- Jay, American Crow, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Bushtit, Marsh Wren, Bewick's Wren, Yellow-rumped Warbler, White-crowned Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Starling, American Pipit, Northern Mockingbird, Common Yellowthroat, Oak Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Common Raven, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, House Finch, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, California Towhee, Brewer's Blackbird.

Leader: Jim White **Participants:** Len Blumin, Ellen Blustein, Peter Colasanti, Emily Evans, Gary and Terry Haag, Linda Hammer, BD "Mike" Parmeter, Wendy Peterson, Rhio Reigh, Don Reinberg, Ruth Rudesill.

Observations January 2009 - Report by Ruth Rudesill

Bird Species	Date	Location	Co.	#	Observers	Notes
Gr White-fronted Goose	12/23/08	Napa Sewer Ponds	NAP	9	BDP, JP	
✓ Gr White-fronted Goose	1/19/09	HSWEP	SON	24	BDP	
Snow Goose	12/23/08	Napa Sewer Ponds	NAP	1	BDP, JP	
✓ Snow Goose	1/11/09	near Carmody Rd	SON	1	CLU, LLU	
✓ Snow Goose	1/4/09	Porto Bodega	SON	1	BDP	
Ross's Goose	12/23/08	Napa Sewer Ponds	NAP	1	BDP, JP	
Ross's Goose	12/26/08	Sacramento NWR	COL	1	BDP, JP	blue phase
✓ Cackling Goose	1/2/09	over El Verano	SON	3	RAR	
✓ Cackling Goose	1/2/09	near Schellville	SON	33	DShw	Aleutian

Cackling Goose	1/10/09	Las Gallinas	MRN	1	JWh, BDP, RROS	Aleutian
Mute Swan	12/25/08	Shollenberger Park	SON	67	BDP, JP	
✓ Tundra Swan	1/11/09	Carmody Rd Pond	SON	2	CLu, LLu	
Tundra Swan	1/19/09	near Hauchico Creek	NAP	3	BDP	
✓ Eurasian Wigeon	1/2/09	Bodega Farm Pond	SON	2m	BSp, DK	
Eurasian Wigeon	1/10/09	Las Gallinas	MRN	2m	JWh, RROS	
✓ Blue-winged Teal	12/25/08	Shollenberger Park	SON	5m 3f	BDP, JP	
✓ Eurasian Teal	1/10/09	Las Gallinas	MRN	1 m	JWh, RROS	
✓ Canvasback	12/25/08	Shollenberger Park	SON	100	BDP, JP	
✓ Canvasback	1/4/09	Bodega Farm Pond	SON	30	BDP	
✓ White-winged Scoter	1/3/09	Bodega Harbor	SON	1m	DF	
Harlequin Duck	1/18/09	Loch Lomand	MRN	1m	KWi, BOI	
Long-tailed Duck	1/1-6/09	near Port Sonoma/ Pet River	SON	1-2f	BDo, HK, KP	
Barrow's Goldeneye	12/27/08	Putah Creek	SOL	1m	BDP, JP	
✓ Barrow's Goldeneye	cont 1/15/09	Spring Lake	SON	1-3f	TMc, RAR, mob	
✓ Barrow's Goldeneye	1/6/09	Port Sonoma	SON	1m	KP	
Hooded Merganser	12/23/08	Napa Sewer Ponds	NAP	3f	RAR	
Red-necked Grebe	1/3-4/09	Bodega Harbor Channel	SON	1	DF, BDP	
Am White Pelican	12/20/08	Abbotts Lagoon	MRN	4	BDP, BLe	
✓ Bald Eagle	1/2/09	near Fowler Creek Rd	SON	1 imm	KMu	
✓ Bald Eagle	1/17/09	Lake Sonoma	SON	3 ad	BSp	
✓ Common Black Hawk	1/18/09	Laguna area	SON	1	SMo photo	
✓ Red-tailed Hawk	1/16/09	Crane Creek Reg Park	SON	1	RAR rufous morph	
Red-tailed Hawk	1/2-8/09	near Hudemann Slough	SON	1	RLe partial albino	
✓ Ferruginous Hawk	1/19/09	HSWEP	NAP	1	BDP	
✓ Golden Eagle	1/19/09	Lakeville Hwy	SON	1	AWgh imm	
✓ Crested Caracara	12/14/08	Hwy 121 s of Hwy116	SON	1	Leslie Flint no details	
Merlin	1/1/09	Skaggs Island Rd	SON	1	BDo, HK	
Merlin	1/19/09	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	ALa	
Peregrine Falcon	12/20/08	Abbotts Lagoon	MRN	1	BDP, BLe	
Peregrine Falcon	1/17/09	Bodega Harbor	SON	2	DHI, BDP anatum & pealei	
Peregrine Falcon	1/19/09	Laguna area	SON	1 juv	TM	
✓ Prairie Falcon	1/19/09	HSWEP	SON	1	BDP	
Virginia Rail	1/10/09	Las Gallinas	MRN	1	PC, BDP RROS	
✓ Sora	12/25/08	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	BDP, JP	
✓ Pacific Golden-Plover	1/11-14/09	Shollenberger Park	SON	1-4	AWgh, BDP	
Snowy Plover	12/20/08	Abbotts Lagoon	MRN	18	BDP, BLe	
Snowy Plover	1/4/09	Doran mudflat	SON	10	BDP	
Long-billed Curlew	1/19/09	field in Laguna area	SON	flock	TM	
✓ Red Phalarope	1/4/09	off Bodega Head	SON	3	BDP	
✓ Glaucous Gull	12/30/08-1/1/09	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	CSe, BDo, HK first cycle	
✓ Glaucous Gull	1/17/09	mouth Salmon Creek	SON	1	AWgh	
✓ Pigeon Guillemot	12/28/08	off Bodega Head	SON	1	BDP, JP	
✓ Marbled Murrelet	12/20/08	offshore Abbotts Lagoon	MRN	3	BDP, BLe	
✓ Marbled Murrelet	1/4-11/09	off Bodega Head	SON	2	BDP, CLu, LLu	
✓ Ancient Murrelet	12/28/08-1/4/09	off Bodega Head	SON	3	BDP, JP	
✓ Ancient Murrelet	1/11/09	off Bodega Head	SON	14	CLu, LLu	
✓ Rhinoceros Auklet	12/28/08-1/4/09	off Bodega Head	SON	1-3	BDP, JP	
Western Screech-Owl	1/17/09	Kenwood yard	SON	1	RAR calling	
Great Horned Owl	1/18/09	Petaluma yard	SON	1	ALa	
✓ Anna's Hummingbird	1/17/09	Sebastopol yard	SON	1	VB building nest	
✓ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1/4/09-1/11/09	E Bonness Rd	SON	1	DShw, mob RLeb photo	
✓ Red-naped Sapsucker	1/4/09	near Occidental	SON	1	SJ	
✓ Red-naped Sapsucker	1/1-6/09	north end Spring Lake	SON	1	DK, TMc	
✓ Loggerhead Shrike	1/2/09	Fowler Creek Rd	SON	1	KMu	
Northern Shrike	1/13-16/09	Las Gallinas	MRN	1 imm	mob RRh continuing	
✓ Tree Swallow	12/21/08	Delta Pond	SON	50+	BDP, BLe	
✓ Tree Swallow	12/25/08	Shollenberger Park	SON	200+	BDP, JP	
Tree Swallow	1/1/09	Lake Hennessey	NAP	200+	BDP	
Barn Swallow	1/10/09	Las Gallinas	MRN	2	JW, BDP RROS	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	12/27/08	Lake Solano	SOL	1	BDP, JP	
Cedar Waxwing	1/18/09	Kenwood yard	SON			
✓ Orange-crowned Sparrow	12/08-1/09	Petaluma feeder	SON	1	KWi	
Townsend's Warbler	12/2008	Oakmont feeder	SON	1m	BGr	

✓ Palm Warbler	1/2/09	Ramal Rd	SON	1	RAR
✓ Western Tanager	12/21-23/08	Santa Rosa	SON	1-2	BB
Lark Sparrow	1/1/09	Ramal Rdx Acacia	SON	20	BDo, HK
White-throated Sparrow	12/26/08	Willowside Trail	SON	1	BDo, HK
White-throated Sparrow	1/2/09	Olive St/ El Verano	SON	1	RAR
White-throated Sparrow	1/16/09	Petaluma yard	SON	1	Ala
White-throated Sparrow	1/16/09	Lucchesi Park	SON	1	AWgh tan stripe adult
✓ Indigo Bunting	12/22-28/08	Santa Rosa yard	SON	1	BBu

Observers: Veronica Bowers, Betty Burridge, Peter Colasanti, Bill Doyle, Leslie Flint, Dea Freid, Betty Groce, Diane Hichwa, Sean Jeane, Don Kirker, Helen Kochenderfer, Andy Lacasse, Rick LeBaudour, Bill Lenarz, Les and Cindy Lieurance, Tom McCuller, Terrie Miller, Stan Moore, Kathy Mugele, Becky Olsen, Kathy Parker, Benjamin "Mike" Parmeter, John Parmeter, Rhio Reigh, Ruth A Rudesill, RROS, Doug Shaw, Bob Speckels, Alan Wight, and Ken Wilson

Results of the Santa Rosa Christmas Count - by Ruth Rudesill

The Santa Rosa Christmas Count was held Sunday, December 21, 2008. Unfortunately, the weather gods were not kind to us! It was cold and raining for most the day. I really want to congratulate everyone for braving the horrible weather and making this count a success! Special thanks to the area leaders (in bold) who organized one of the largest groups of birders we've ever had for the count (including several from out of the area!) Also thank you to Don Howard for helping with the finances for the count dinner once again held at Mary's on Summerfield Road.

Thank you to Count participates: Ken Ackerman, **Bill Doyle**, Ellen Blustein, Janet Bosshard, Wayne Brigden, **Betty Burridge**, Peter Colasanti, Al DeMartini, Christine Engel, Liz Ferrar, Dea Freid, **Betty Groce**, **Deyea & Jack Harper**, Hugh Helm, Joel Hornstein, **Lisa Hug**, Richard Hurley, Marcia Johnson, Don Kirker, Helen Kochenderfer, Kim Kuska, Kris Shanks, **Andy Lacasse**, Rick Lebaudour, Bill Lenarz, Gloria Markowitz, Don McCarthy, **Richard Merriss**, **Ian Morrison**, **Gerry Mugele**, Lilly Mugele, Kathy Mugele, Mike Nelligan, **Dan Nelson**, Becky Olsen, **Mike Parameter**, Bill Payne, Linda Petrulias, Elaine Pruett, Rhio Reigh, **Ruth Rudesill**, Phyllis Schmitt, Bob Speckels, Karen & Jerry Wagner, and Ken Wilson.

Bird Species counted: 130 species plus 4 count week

Greater White-fronted Goose 7, Cackling Goose 5, Canada Goose 472, Wood Duck 3, Gadwall 8, American Wigeon 86, Mallard 854, Northern Shoveler 94, Green-winged Teal 76, Ring-necked Duck 4, Greater Scaup 1, Lesser Scaup 2, Bufflehead 161, Common Goldeneye 14, Barrow's Goldeneye 2, Hooded Merganser 13, Common Merganser 62, Ruddy Duck 228, Ring-necked Pheasant 8, Wild Turkey 397, California Quail 251, Pied-billed Grebe 27, Eared Grebe 1, Western Grebe cw, Am White Pelican 30, Double-crested Cormorant 140, American Bittern 1, Great Blue Heron 19, Great Egret 23, Snowy Egret 21, Cattle Egret 48, Green Heron 1, Black-cr. Night-Heron 10, Turkey Vulture 97, Osprey cw, White-tailed Kite 18, Northern Harrier 18, Sharp-shinned Hawk 3, Cooper's Hawk 3, accipiter sp. 1, Red-shouldered Hawk 47, Red-tailed hawk 44, American Kestrel 29, Merlin 2, Prairie Falcon 1, falcon sp. 1, Virginia Rail 1, Common Moorhen 2, American Coot 508, Killdeer 101, Greater Yellowlegs 4, Spotted Sandpiper 2, Dunlin 7, Wilson's Snipe 13, Mew Gull 72, Ring-billed Gull 367, California Gull 51, Herring Gull 5, Western Gull 1, Glaucous-winged Gull 14, gull sp. 108, Rock Pigeon 1077, Band-tailed Pigeon 56, Eurasian Collared-Dove 2, Mourning Dove 212, Barn Owl 1, Western Screech-Owl 9, Great Horned Owl 2, Northern Pygmy-Owl 1, Spotted Owl 1, Northern Saw-whet Owl 1, Anna's Hummingbird 69, Belted Kingfisher, 9, Lewis's Woodpecker 1, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Acorn Woodpecker 98, Nuttall's Woodpecker 8, Hairy Woodpecker 3, Northern Flicker 113 Red-shafted form 8, Yellow-shafted form 1, Pileated Woodpecker 1, Black Phoebe 110, Say's Phoebe 13, Hutton's Vireo 5, Steller's Jay 78, Western Scrub-Jay 507, American Crow 1172, Common Raven 21, Tree Swallow 71, Chestnut-backed Chickadee 170, Oak Titmouse 149, Bushtit 332, White-breasted Nuthatch 31, Brown Creeper 15, Bewick's Wren 10, Winter Wren 2, Marsh Wren 1, Golden-crowned Kinglet 20, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 109, Western Bluebird 169, American Robin 1975, Varied Thrush 19, Wrentit 3, Northern Mockingbird 54, European Starling 5197, American Pipit 44, Cedar Waxwing 726, Yellow-rumped Warbler 335, Audubon's form 41, Myrtle form 3, Townsend's Warbler 6, Hermit Warbler cw, Western Tanager 1, Spotted Towhee 51, California Towhee 385, Rufous-crowned Sparrow 2, Lark Sparrow 17, Savannah Sparrow 215, Fox Sparrow 38, Song Sparrow 108, Lincoln's Sparrow 28, White-throated Sparrow 5, White-crowned

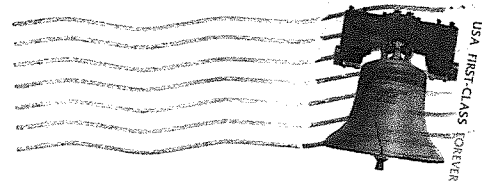
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Sparrow 552, Golden-crowned Sparrow 548, sparrow sp. 11, Dark-eyed Junco 670, Indigo Bunting cw, Red-winged Blackbird 670, Tricolored Blackbird 436, Western Meadowlark 47, Brewer's Blackbird 1125, Brown-headed Cowbird 35, blackbird sp 171, Purple Finch 1, House Finch 216, Pine Siskin 26, Lesser Goldfinch 228, American Goldfinch 74, House Sparrow 155 Total = 22,885 birds.

2nd Annual SV-Audubon Christmas Bird Count for Kids - Jan. 17th Nine teams with 41 young birders (ages 7-14) along with experienced birding leaders hiked by foot 6.75 miles in 16 hours through routes in the City of Sonoma representing unique habitats, including Fryer and Nathason's Creeks, Sonoma Historic Plaza, the Gen. Vallejo fields, Bartholomew Park, Depots Park, Sonoma Garden Park and lower Sonoma Mt.

A total of 53 species and 1,385 birds were recorded. (sunny, 45-70° clear day with little wind) The leading birding teams were at Fryer Creek (283 birds) and Sonoma Garden Park (324 birds) both with 32 total species. Eight new species were discovered this year including the Green Heron, American Wigeon (plaza pond), Pine Siskin, Bushtit, Varied Thrush, Say's Phoebe, Eurasian-Collard-Dove and Sharp-shinned Hawk. Last year 20 participants on four teams recorded 41 species and 537 birds.

A tabulation celebration at the SCC was highlighted by team presentations and four live birds from Bird Rescue of Sonoma including a Great Horned Owl, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel and a Merlin. Over 100 people attended the celebration. The Rotary Club donated backpacks for the kids bird books, brown bag lunches as well as calculators to help kids tally their birds. The winning prizes were donated by PRBO. Special thanks to our host the Sonoma Community Center and nature partners, Madrone Audubon, RROS, PRBO Conservation and SEC. Visit sonomabirding.org for upcoming nature programs.



KITE TALES

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Feb.2009



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