



Kite Tales

Volume 44 Number 8

APRIL 2009

General Meeting, Thursday, April 9, 7:00 pm

Speaker: Keith Hanson

Keith Hansen is a wildlife artist who specializes in the accurate and imaginative illustration of birds. Having a gallery and studio in Bolinas, Keith enjoys creating in an area with such a wealth of feathered subjects. He is currently illustrating a book entitled, "A Field Guide to the Birds of the Sierra Nevada and Mono Lake." This guide will depict each of the 320 species of birds that occur annually in the Sierra. The 68 watercolor plates will portray birds in various plumages, pointing out differences in sex, age, season and the like. Keith will bring some of the original plates from the book, and will share with us stories, techniques and the ins and outs of doing a field guide.

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.

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.)

Audubon Canyon Ranch needs volunteers for the North Bay Heron and Egret Project

Heron and Egret Observers "adopt a nesting site" and visit it five or more times during the nesting season. Volunteers record information on bird behavior and nesting success at their colony. The project is part of a continuing effort by Audubon Canyon Ranch to monitor colonially nesting herons and egrets in the northern San Francisco Bay Area. Contact Emiko Condesco 415.663.8203 or emiko@egret.org

FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, April 18- Field Trip to Mitchell Canyon

Mitchell Canyon is a great spring birding spot on the north flanks of Mt Diablo. Hope for birds include Hammond's Flycatcher, Calliope Hummingbird, Hermit Warbler and Nashville Warbler. The wildflowers and butterflies should be beautiful. Meet 7am Petaluma park'n'ride at Lakeville Hwy and Hwy 101 for carpooling . Or meet 8am at the Mitchell Canyon Parking Area which is located on Mitchell Canyon Road from Clayton Road northeast of Walnut Creek. Bring binoculars, sunscreen, water, food for lunch, hats. This is a walking field trip, about 3 miles. Leader is Richard Merriss. Questions; Call Richard 707-789-0970. Let him know if you plan to meet at Mitchell Canyon.

Saturday, May 16-Field Trip to Pine Flat Road

This is our last official field trip of the season. Pine Flat Road has wonderful rare wildflowers, great butterflies and terrific birds. All the spring nesting species should be in. Meet 8am at Pine Flat Road past the Jimtown store, where the road narrows, at the bridge. From Hwy 101 take Dry Creek exit to Healdsburg Av to Alexander Valley Road to Pine Flat Road. Bring optics, field guides, water, lunch, sunscreen, hats. Leader is Lisa Hug. Questions call Ellen Blustein 707-789-0970

FIELD TRIP REPORT by Rick LeBaudour Susanville area – March 13, 14, 15 Total species: 113. Nesting birds: Great Horned Owl, Eurasian Collared-Dove. Highlights: Im. Northern Goshawk, 18-20 Sage Grouse, 80 Pinyon Jays, 28 Bald Eagles, 2 Pileated Woodpeckers, Williamson's Sapsucker, Bittern, Evening Grosbeak, Juniper Titmouse.

Participants: Richard Merriss, Ruth Rudesill, Benjamin D. "Mike" Parmeter, Rick LeBaudour, Ellen Blustein, Karen Nagel, Shirley Spina, Janet Bosshard.

Birds Observed: Greater White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Ross's Goose, Cackling Goose, Canada Goose, Tundra Swan, Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Mallard, Cinnamon Teal, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Barrow's Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Greater Sage-Grouse, California Quail, Eared Grebe, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, American Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Northern Goshawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Golden Eagle (3), Chukar, American Kestrel, Prairie Falcon, American Coot, Sandhill Crane, Killdeer, American Avocet, Spotted Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, Herring Gull, Band-tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Starling, Lewis's Woodpecker, Acorn Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Loggerhead Shrike, Steller's Jay, Western Scrub-Jay, Pinyon Jay, Black-billed Magpie, American Crow, Common Raven, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Mountain Chickadee, Juniper Titmouse, Bushtit, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Pygmy Nuthatch, Rock Wren, Canyon Wren, Bewick's Wren, Marsh Wren, Dipper, Pheasant, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Western Bluebird, Mountain Bluebird, American Robin, Sage Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, Spotted Towhee, Sage Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Cassin's Finch, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Lesser Goldfinch, Evening Grosbeak, House Sparrow.

Welcome to new member Marcia Johnson from Sebastopol.

Congratulations to Betty Burrige and California Native Plant Society's Betty Guggolz who received the Ernestine I. Smith Lifetime Environmental Commitment Award at the recent annual awards dinner of the Sonoma County Conservation Council.

SPECIAL EVENT

The Peter Leveque lecture this year is on Friday April 3rd at 7pm at Santa Rosa JC, in Newman Auditorium. Dr. Jim McGuire, a professor in the Integrative biology department at UC Berkeley will be talking about the ecological and physiological adaptations of hummingbirds to high altitudes – specifically focusing on evolution of high altitude flight.

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.

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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

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Observations February - March 2009 – Ruth Rudesill

Bird Species	Date	Location	Co.	#	Observers	Notes
✓Gr White-fronted Goose	2/24/09	Spring Lake Park	SON	4	RAR	smaller race
✓Snow Goose	2/24/09	north Petaluma	SON	1	AWgh	
✓Blue-winged Teal	2/27/09	Shollenberger Park	SON	3 prs	LBI, mob	
✓Hooded Merganser	3/5/09	seasonal pond north Petaluma	SON	1m	AWgh	
✓Common Merganser	3/21/09	Adobe Creek	SON	1m	PC, RMe	
✓Sooty Grouse	3/3/14/09	King Ridge Rd	SON	1	HK,BD	displaying
Yellow-billed Loon	3/11-3/17/09	Miller's Landing Park	MRN	2	RS, RAR mob	
Red-necked Grebe	3/1/09	Bodega Harbor channel	SON	1	MDo	
Osprey	2/24/09	Spring Lake park	SON	2	RAR	calling
✓Bald Eagle	2/28/09	Bodega harbor	SON	1 imm	MDo	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2/20-25/09	Cazedero yard	SON	1	DBe	
Swainson;s Hawk	3/21/09	Soscal Ferry Rd	NAP	2	AWgh	
✓Rough-legged Hawk	2/24/09	Skaggs Island Rd	SON	1	KPk	
✓Rough-legged Hawk	3/19/09	Kenwood	SON	1	GMu	
✓Rough-legged Hawk	3/19/09	Port Sonoma	SON	1	RS	
Merlin	2/7/09	Hudemann Slough area	SON	1	MBe	Prairie
✓Pacific Golden-Plover	2/25-3/17/09	Shollenberger Park	SON	3-4	LBI, PC, mob	
✓Glaucous Gull	2/26-3/5/09	Lucchesi Park Petaluma	SON	1 imm	AWgh	

✓ Glaucous Gull	2/28/09	mouth of Russian River	SON	1imm	LHg	1 st cycle
✓ Glaucous Gull	3/2-14/09	mouth Salmon Creek	SON	1-2	FH, HK, BD	
✓ Glaucous Gull	3/9/09	Bodega Harbor	SON	2	RS	
✓ Glaucous Gull	3/20/09	Shollenberger park	SON	1imm	RAR, LP, JM	
✓ Black-legged Kittiwake	2/28/09	mouth Russian River	SON	1ad	LHg	
✓ Black-legged Kittiwake	3/8/09	off Bodega Head	SON	1	PC	
Rufous Hummingbird	2/26/09	Cazedero yard	SON	1	DBe	
Red-breasted Sapsucker	2/20/09	Spring Lake Park	SON	1	BSp, RAR	
Red-breasted Sapsucker	2/24/09	ne Santa Rosa	SON	1	BD, RAR	
✓ Northern Shrike	2/14-3/4/09	east Skaggs Island Rd	SON/NAP1		MBe, DEQ, mob	
✓ Bohemian Waxwing	2/23/09	NE Santa Rosa	SON	2	DShw	
✓ Yellow Warbler	2/27/09	Diekmans Bodega Bay	SON	1	PH, MDo	

Observations: Dennis Beall, Murray Berner, Len Blumin, Peter Colasanti, Matthew Dodder, Bill Doyle, Floyd Hayes, Phil Henderson, Lisa Hug, Helen Kochenderfer, Joy Mander, Richard Merriss, Gerry Mugele, Kathy Parker, Linda Petrualias, Dave E Quady, Ruth A Rudesill, Doug Shaw, Bill Speckels, Rich Stallcup and Alan Wight

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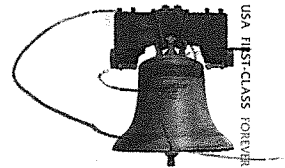
WWW.RROS.ORG - A SUPERIOR WEBSITE

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

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KITE TALES
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