



# Kite Tales

Volume 45 Number 1

SEPT. 2009

## SEPT. 10 - THURS. Tour/Birding/Potluck/Meeting

What happens to polluted water coming from household toilets, sinks and showers or from business and industry? Here is your chance to find out. On Thursday, September 10 at **5:30 p.m.**, Denise Cadwell, Natural Resources Specialist for the City of Santa Rosa, will give a tour of the Laguna Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The Laguna Treatment Plant, serving Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park, Cotati and Sebastopol, treats an average of 18 million gallons of sewage a day. Sewage reaches the Llano Road facility through 500 miles of pipe carrying polluted water away from homes and businesses.

Sewage receives a three step treatment followed by disinfection, using ultraviolet light. After treatment, water is recycled back to the environment by geysers recharge, summer irrigation, and, in wet years, winter discharge. Solids are used as fertilizers or composted. The program involves many elements of testing and reporting to ensure public health and environmental safety.

All this water and sewage are an irresistible lure to birds and other wildlife, as you will see during the tour of the plant's adjacent wetlands. Be sure to bring binoculars.

At **7:00 p.m.**, following the tour, we shall have a potluck dinner in the conference room. The City of Santa Rosa does not allow alcohol on the premises. Bring salad/main dish/side dish/dessert/hors d'oeuvres or whatever, as well as table settings, beverages, and binoculars.

**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.

**ANNUAL DUES ARE NOW PAYABLE!****\$20 per family, \$15 per individual, \$5 per student**

SEND RROS DUES TO TREAS. DON HOWARD, 979 HOGWARTS CIRCLE, PETALUMA 94954

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**FIELD TRIPS****Wednesday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> Vaux's Swifts Rio Lindo Academy Healdsburg 6:30 pm**

**Leader is Peter Leveque** Directions: Heading north on Hwy101, take the Old Redwood Hwy/Healdsburg Avenue exit. Go north to Bailhache Ave., turn right and continue for about 3 miles to the entrance of Rio Lindo Academy. Turn left at first stop sign, then left again just before the dormitory. Go ½ block to the rear of the campus. The chimney is on a side street west of the athletic field.

**Sunday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> – Field Trip to outer Point Reyes.** This is our annual fall trip to this great birding spot. Meet 8 a.m. at the Whitehouse Pools parking lot in Inverness. We will search all the famous spots for vagrants and migrants. Bring binoculars, scopes, field guides, water, lunch, layers of clothing. Leader is Bob Speckels. Questions: Ellen Blustein 707-789-0970.

**Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> – Field Trip to Bodega Harbor.**

**FIELD TRIP REPORT****Pine Flat Road May 16, 2009**

The Pine flat Road field trip was a great success – in spite of the heat. We started the day by driving straight up to the top of the road. We spent a good part of the morning searching the chaparral habitat for birds. We drifted down the hill and made several stops. We ended the trip around 2:00. Bird highlights include Hermit Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, California Thrasher, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Indigo Bunting (seen by a few observers) and Mountain Quails were heard frequently. Field trip participants were Lisa Hug (leader) Ellen Blustein (field trip coordinator), Jim Clegg, Chris Engel, Jim Fitzhand, Jocelyn Gardner, Karin Grillo, Gary Haag Terry Haag, Richard Hurley, Marcia Johnson, Richard Merriss, Roger Marlowe, Linda Petruvias, Don Reinberg, and Ruth Rudesill.

We saw 53 species of birds cumulatively, including:

Wild Turkey, Mountain Quail, California Quail, Turkey Vulture, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Eurasian Collared Dove, Mourning Dove, White-throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Acorn Woodpecker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Olive-sided Flycatcher. Western Wood-pewee, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Cassin's Vireo. Warbling Vireo, Steller's Jay, Western Scrub-Jay, Common Raven, Purple Martin, Violet-green Swallow, Oak Titmouse, Bushtit, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Bewick's Wren, House Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Western Bluebird, American Robin, Wrentit, California Thrasher, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Hermit Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Western Tanager, Spotted Towhee, California Towhee, Song Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Black-headed Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Lazuli Bunting, Western Meadowlark, Bullock's Oriole, Lesser Goldfinch.

**NEW MEMBER**

Welcome to Karin Grillo – Walnut Creek

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**THANKS TO** Donald McCarthy, Don Howard, and Betty Burrige in memory of Jo Natatkemper for generous donations to RROS

**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**

President Rhio Reigh	1604 Austin Way, Santa Rosa 95404	<a href="mailto:rhioreigh@juno.com">rhioreigh@juno.com</a>	579-3400
Vice Pres. Terry Haag	1340 Big Plum Dr., Sebastopol 95472	<a href="mailto:teresitahaag@comcast.net">teresitahaag@comcast.net</a>	823-8527
Secretary Elaine Pruett	2 Twin Creeks Circle, Petaluma 94952	<a href="mailto:elprue@aol.com">elprue@aol.com</a>	781-9772
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 CA 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 the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**LUKE COLE 400 SPECIES \$40,000 MEMORIAL CHALLENGE**

As many of you already heard, the birding community and world lost one of its most selfless supporters on June 6, 2009. Luke Cole was killed in a car accident while birding in Uganda. Luke was a San Francisco based humanitarian and environmental attorney. He had not only had served on the California Rare Birds Committee and was a Regional Editor for "North American Birds" for ABA, avid county lister, working breeding bird atlases and surveys; he was top environmental lawyer that gave up a highly paid career to help people, communities and the environment in need. He was also great guy!

To celebrate Luke's life, some of his friends came up with a fun challenge to keep his Center on Race, Poverty, and the Environment (CRPE) running strong. The challenge is on the weekend of September 26 and 27th, can a group of birders find 400 species in California? And raise \$40,000 while doing it? Everyone can participate by sending in bird sightings and donating money to the cause.

I know a lot of folks will want to be at outer Pt. Reyes that weekend but keep track of those Sonoma County birds while enroute. I hope some will volunteer to go to Bodega Bay, Shollenberger, and in the hills for a few hours. Even feeder watchers can help. I plan to try owling and I'm hoping that the Yellow-billed Loon will stick around. Other birds that may help the list are Common Black Hawk, Black Rail, and the Ross's Goose at Lucchesi Park. How many species can we see in Sonoma County that weekend?

We are asking for donations, a lump sum or \$ per species seen in Sonoma County. We will discuss this at the meeting. If you have any questions, or want to actively participate, contact me. I will be getting more details soon.

Thank you, Ruthie Rudesill 833-6026 [ruthier@sonic.net](mailto:ruthier@sonic.net)

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**13<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CENTRAL VALLEY BIRDING SYMPOSIUM**

It's party time again! The 13th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium will be held Nov.19-22 in Stockton, CA., at the Hilton Stockton.

Attend workshops with raptor expert Bill Clark, birding pros Jon Dunn and Joe Morlan, as well as other informative folks. Our evening programs include Murrelet Halterman on Yellow-billed Cuckoos and

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Stephen Shunk on "The Magic of Birding". We have drawing and digiscoping workshops, our always popular and informative ID Panel with guest experts, programs for beginning birders, and more. The many Field Trips frequently turn up chasable goodies. The Birder's Market is full of artists and vendors with a wonderful selection of bird and nature related items

For more info, check the website at [www.cvbs.org](http://www.cvbs.org), or contact Frances Oliver at [hummer52@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hummer52@sbcglobal.net) or (209) 369-2010.

The economy may be down, but the birds are still here to lift you up with their wings. Come and enjoy them with us. See you there!

Cheri Pillsbury

Central Valley Birding Symposium

## Observations - Late Spring - Summer 2009 - Report by Ruth Rudesill

Bird Species	Date	Location	Co.	#	Observers	Notes
✓ Cackling Goose	6/27/09	Doran Park	SON	1	PBC, RoM, RAR	Richardson's photo
✓ Brant	6/30-8/10/09	Bodega Harbor	SON	8-12	BDP, DHf, RAR	mob summering
✓ Northern Pintail	7/24/09	Ringstrom Unit S-N Marsh	SON	7	MBe	mom and 6 babes
✓ Bufflehead	7/31/09	Napa Sewer Ponds	NAP	1f	BDP, MBe	
✓ Common Goldeneye	7/31/09	Napa Sewer Ponds	NAP	1f	BDP, MBe	
✓ Long-tailed Duck	6/3/09	Bodega Harbor	SON	1f	PBC, RoM	photo
✓ Sooty Shearwater	6/12/09	off Bodega Head	SON	1	CLu, LLu, LHg, SC	
✓ Arctic Loon	6/14/09	The Sea Ranch	SON	1	TEa	photo
✓ Pacific Loon	7/14-8/10/09	Bodega Harbor	SON	1-4	BDP, mob	summering
✓ Yellow-billed Loon	6/26-8/10/09	Bodega Harbor	SON	1	RT, BM, JK, NS, RoM	mob pix
✓ Clark's Grebe	5/14-31/09	Spring Lake Reg Park	SON	1-2	RAR	RROS
✓ Clark's Grebe	6/12/09	Tolay Creek/Hwy 37	SON	1	Brittany Stieg	
✓ Red-necked Grebe	5/23/09	Bodega Bay	SON	1	RAR	
✓ Red-necked Grebe	7/27-8/10/09	Bodega Harbor	SON	1	RS, BDP, LHg	mob plumage
✓ Western Grebe	5/14-31/09	Spring Lake Reg Park	SON	1-2	RAR, BD, RROS	
✓ Am White Pelican	7/14-8/4/09	Gaffney Pt /Bodega Harbor	SON	41	BDP, mob	
✓ Am White Pelican	7/19/09	Spring Lake Reg Pk	SON	6	RAR.	Soaring over
✓ American Bittern	6/7/09	Viansa Wetlands	SON	1	TR, DP	
✓ American Bittern	7/14/09	Sonoma-Napa Marsh	SON	1	MBe	
✓ Green Heron	5/24/09	Gualala River	MEN	2	BDP	
✓ White faced Ibis	5/17-19/09	Shollenberger Park	SON	12	PBC, KP	
✓ White-faced Ibis	5/27/09	Sebastopol Laguna	SON	8-10	Terrie Miller	
✓ White-faced Ibis	8/4/09	Hwy 121 / Tolay Creek	SON	12	RAR	
✓ White-faced Ibis	8/11/09	Bodega Harbor	SON	1	RoM	
✓ Common Black Hawk	7/25/09	Laguna area	SON	1	SMo	
✓ Swainson's Hawk	4/15/09	Huichica Creek	SON	2	MBe	1ad, 1imm
✓ Swainson's Hawk	5/24/09	Skaggs Island Rd	SON	1	RAR	
✓ Swainson's Hawk	7/14/09	Sonoma/Napa Marsh	SON	1	MBe	
✓ Golden Eagle	7/29/09	Hwy 116 Petaluma	SON	2	KMu	
✓ Virginia Rail	8/9/09	Rail Ponds	SON	1-2	PBC, DEd, RAR	
✓ Snowy Plover	8/10/09	Doran Beach	SON	10	RoM	photo
✓ American Avocet	7/28/09	Doran Pond	SON	1	BDP, DHf	
✓ Black Oystercatcher	7/14/09	rocks Bodega Head	SON	5	BDP	2 ad, 3 downy chicks
✓ Wandering Tattler	5/4/09	Coleman Beach	SON	1	RoM	
✓ Wandering Tattler	7/28/09	Bodega Head	SON	2	BDP, DHf	
✓ Wandering Tattler	7/25-31/09	Bodega Channel Jetty	SON	1-2	RAR, LHg, EBI	
✓ Solitary Sandpiper	7/31/09	Napa Sewer Ponds	NAP	1	BDP, MBe	
✓ Lesser Yellowlegs	8/9-11/09	Bodega Harbor	SON	1-3	RoM, RAR	
✓ Whimbrel	7/13/09	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	PBC	
✓ Wilson's Snipe	5/15-16/09	Graton Rd, Sebastopol	SON	1	Gay Bishop	winnowing
✓ Long-billed Dowitcher	5/15/09	Shollenberger Park	SON	8	RAR	

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✓ Short-billed Dowitcher	6/30/09	Doran Park	SON	1ad	BDP, DHf	
✓ Red Knot	5/4-8/09	Bodega Harbor	SON	3-6	RoM, LB, DR	
✓ Red Knot	7/25/09	Gaffney Pt	SON	2	PBC, RAR	
✓ Semipalmated Sandpiper	7/31-8/3/09	Bodega Harbor	SON	1	LHg, EBI, RoM	photos
✓ Semipalmated Sandpiper	8/8/09	Bodega Harbor	SON	2	HK, BD, RAR	
✓ Black Turnstone	7/28/09	Gaffney Point	SON	61	BDP, DHf	high #
✓ Heermann's Gull	6/30/09	Bodega Harbor jetty	SON	6	BDP, DHf	
✓ Surfbird	7/25-8/9/09	Bodega Harbor	SON	2-12	RS, PBC, RAR, mob	
✓ Sanderling	7/28/09	Bodega Harbor	SON	250	BDP, DHf	
✓ Red-necked Phalarope	5/2/09	pond Adobe Rd	SON	300+	RS	
✓ Red-necked Phalarope	8/9/09	Bodega Harbor	SON	1	DEd, PBC	
✓ Wilson's Phalarope	8/9/09	Doran Park	SON	1	NS	
✓ Bonaparte's Gull	5/4/09	Bodega Harbor	SON	3	RoM	
✓ Glaucous Gull	5/4-8/09	Bodega Harbor	SON	1imm	RoM, LB, DR	
✓ Glaucous Gull	5/23/09	Pt Arena	MEN	1	BDP	2 <sup>nd</sup> yr
✓ Western Gull	5/3/09	Port Sonoma	SON	1ad	BD, HK w/ yellow legs	
✓ Elegant Tern	8/9/09	Bodega Harbor	SON	1	RAR	
✓ Common Tern	5/23/09	Bodega Harbor	SON	1	RAR	imm?
✓ Parasitic Jaeger	8/6/09	Bodega Harbor	SON	1	RAR	dark
✓ Thick-billed Murre	6/14/09	The Sea Ranch	SON	1	TEa	photo
This has been submitted to CRBC and is the first Sonoma County record						
✓ Horned Puffin	6/14/09	The Sea Ranch	SON	1	TEa	photo
✓ Rhinoceros Auklet	5/23/09	off Bodega Head	SON	1	RAR	
✓ Rhinoceros Auklet	6/14/09	off Bodega Head	SON	6	CLu, LLu, LHg, SC	
✓ Mountain Quail	4/25/09	Geysers Rd	SON	1	BD, DK, HK	calling
✓ Mountain Quail	5/1/09	Pine Flat Rd	SON	2	BSp	
✓ Mountain Quail	4/25/09	Livermore Ranch	NAP	sev	BDP	calling
✓ Nor Pygmy-Owl	4/25/09	Geysers Rd	SON	1	BD, DK, HK	calling
✓ Red-br Sapsucker	7/11/09	Salt Point SP	SON	2	RAR	
✓ Northern Shrike	3/4/09	Twin Bridges/Annapolis Rd	SON	2	BDP	
✓ Loggerhead Shrike	6/7/09	Napa/Solano Marsh	SON	1	MBe	
✓ Loggerhead Shrike	7/26/09	Viansa Wetlands	SON	1pr	TR, DP	
✓ Loggerhead Shrike	7/26/09	viansa Wetlands	SON	3	TR, DP	
✓ Purple Martin	5/16-26/09	Pine Flat Rd	SON	2-6	RoM, LHg, KP, BDP	courtship
✓ Purple Martin	5/23-24/09	Gualala area	MEN/SON	6-17	BDP	
✓ American Dipper	4/25/09	Geysers Rd	SON	1	BD, DK, HK	on nest
✓ Wrentit	7/14-8/10/09	Entrance Ow; Canyon	SON	1	BDP, RAR	
✓ Black-and-White Warbler	6/2/09	Pt Reyes Lighthouse trees	MRN	1f	PBC	
✓ Nashville Warbler	5/26/09	Pine Flat Rd so end	SON	1m	BDP	singing
✓ Nashville Warbler	6/16/09	Mercuryville	SON	1	BDP, DHf	
✓ Nashville Warbler	6/16/09	Little Sulphur Creek	SON	1	BDP, DHf	
✓ Nashville Warbler	8/6/09	Occidental	SON	1	MH	
✓ MacGillvray's Warbler	5/22/09	Pt Reyes Drakes Monumnt	MRN	1	RAR	singing
✓ MacGillvray's Warbler	4/25/09	Livermore Ranch	NAP	1m	BDP	singing
✓ Yellow-breasted Chat	5/30-6/3/09	Willowside Rd path	SON	1	RAR, Gay Bishop, BD, HK, WB	
✓ Rufous-crowned Sparrow	4/25/09	Geysers Rd	SON	sev	BD, DK, HK	
✓ Chipping Sparrow	4/25/09	Geysers Rd	SON	sev	BD, DK, HK	
✓ Chipping Sparrow	5/3/09	Sonoma Mt Rd	SON	1	BD, HK	
✓ Chipping Sparrow	5/21/09	Kenwood	SON	1	RAR	
✓ Grasshopper Sparrow	4/25/09	Geysers Rd	SON	sev	BD, DK, HK	
✓ Grasshopper Sparrow	5/2/09	Adobe Rd	SON	2-3	RS	
✓ Grasshopper Sparrow	5/3/09	Sonoma Mt Rd	SON	1	BD, HK	
✓ Grasshopper Sparrow	5/30/09	Bull Point	MRN	1	BDP	
✓ Grasshopper Sparrow	6/16/09	Geysers Rd	SON	1	BDP, DHf	

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✓ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	6/23-7/25/09	Cazedero feeder	SON	1m	DBe	
✓ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	7/29-30/09	Occidental	SON	1m	MH	
Lazuli Bunting	5/1/09	Pine Flat Rd	SON	16+	BSp	high #
✓ Indigo Bunting	5/16/09	Pine Flat Rd	SON	1m	RAR, EB	
✓ Great-tailed Grackle	7/31-8/3/09	Ellis Creek Facility ponds	SON	2-4	RAR, LHg, AWgh	
✓ Hooded Oriole	7/19/09	Spring Lake Reg Park	SON	2	PBC, BSp, mob	
✓ Hooded Oriole	5/19/09	Lytton Station Rd	SON	1 pr	KP	nesting
✓ Hooded Oriole	5/31-7/31/09	Oakmont yard feeder	SON	2prs	BGr	

Observers: Dennis Beall, Murray Berner, Gay Bishop, Len Blumin, Ellen Blustein, Wes Brady, Suzanne Cogen, Peter B. Colasanti, Bill Doyle, Todd Easteria, Daniel Edelstein, Betty Groce, Don Kirker, Helen Kochenderfer, Mike Heffernon, David Hofmann, Lisa Hug, Jerry Kenney, Les & Cindy Lieurance, Roger Marlowe, Terrie Miller, Stan Moore, Kathie Mugele, Barbara Munden, Kathryn Parker, Benjamin D. "Mike" Parmeter, Darren Peterie, RROS - Redwood region Ornithological Society, Don Reinberg, Ruth A Rudesill, Tom Rusert, Bob Speckels, Rich Stallcup, Brittany Stieg, Noah Stryster, Ruth Tonascia and Alan Wight.

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**KITE TALES**  
**979 Hogwarts Circle**  
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**SEPTEMBER 2009**



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