



Kite Tales

Volume 45 Number 2

OCT. 2009

General Meeting, Thursday, Oct. 8th, 7:00 pm

Roger Marlowe traveled to Costa Rica in the winter of 2006 and again from December 2007 until February 2008. At our October 8th meeting, he will share with us his photos of the neotropical birds he loves so well.

How about dinner before the meeting? Let's meet at 5:30 p.m. at the Star Restaurant at 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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WANTED - Christmas Count Compiler / Organizer

Due to other obligations, Ruth Rudesill is unable compile or organize this year's Christmas Count. It shouldn't be too difficult as the Team Leaders are mostly in place as are the teams. Len Nelson had volunteered to help organize the teams and Rhio Reigh is helping with the dinner arrangements. Must have computer access as most of this is done online. But Ruth has the file organized and most participants are already entered. Please contact Ruth or Rhio if you are interested.

RROS EVENTS CALENDAR

Saturday, October 17, 2009—Field trip to Bodega Harbor
Meet at 8:00am at the north end of Bodega Harbor near the rail ponds. There’s a parking area on the right. We’ll observe water birds, shorebirds and search for migrants and vagrants. Bring binoculars, scopes, field guides, lunch, water, layers and sunscreen. Leader Mike Parmeter. Questions; Ellen Blustein 707-789-0970

Saturday, November 14, 2009---Bolinas Lagoon. Leader Ruth Rudesill.
More information to follow.

December, No field trip. RROS Christmas Bird Count. Date to be announced.

Saturday, January 9, 2010 ---Field Trip to Solano County/Cosumnes Preserve. Leader Ken Wilson

February 12-15, 2010 -- Presidents Weekend, Klamath Basin. Dates to be announced. Leader Ruth Rudesill.

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Sept. 13th Pt. Reyes Field Trip Report is delayed until November.

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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 Officers

President Rhio Reigh 1604 Austin Way, Santa Rosa 95404 rhioleigh@juno.com 579-3400
Vice Pres. Terry Haag 1340 Big Plum Dr., Sebastopol 95472 teresitahaag@comcast.net 823-8527
Secretary Elaine Pruett 2 Twin Creeks Circle, Petaluma, 94952 elprue@aol.com 781-9772
Treas. Don Howard 979 Hogwarts Circle, Petaluma 94954 binkybunji2@comcast.net 637-0868

Committee Chairs

Field Trips Ellen Blustein 102 Marylyn Cir., Petaluma 94954 ellenblustein@sbcglobal.net 789-0970
Observations Ruth Rudesill PO Box 371, Kenwood CA 95452 ruthier@sonic.net 833-6026
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.

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BOOK REVIEW *Life List* A Woman’s Quest for the World’s Most Amazing Birds by Olivia Gentile, published by Bloomsbury, 2009.

This is a new biography of Phoebe Snetsinger. She was the first person to observe over 8000 species as noted in her autobiography *Birding on Borrowed Time*. I would recommend reading her autobiography before reading this book. The author refers to it frequently. The author is not a birder, but dated one (and concluded he used birding to escape a psychological disorder – hmm?)
I had mixed feelings about this book. While it’s interesting to learn more about the life of a well-known and respected birder, the book is not all that kind to her or our hobby/sport. (continued on page 3)

Those familiar with her story know that she became obsessed with birding. It was a mixture of rebellion against a traditional woman's role as housewife, a way to escape the reality of a terminal cancer diagnosis and a true love of birding. Phoebe's autobiography hints at the toll her birding took on her family. *Life List* makes a much larger deal out of it, suggesting the Snetsinger's marriage was in trouble before all that started. The book reveals she missed two of her daughters' weddings (to be fair Phoebe's schedule was known well in advance and her daughters could have planned around it.) The story becomes more of a family in crisis than that of a pursuit of a birding record. Phoebe's true achievements as an amateur ornithologist are downplayed.

Having met a few birders with her drive and ambition, I can understand some of the psychological analysis. But the true adventure of her quest is the real story and I felt there was too much criticism of choices and actions. ~ Ruth Rudesill

Annual Financial Report July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

TOTAL BEGINNING BANK BALANCES - \$4,645.64

INFLOWS:

Donations	\$ 1,380.00	Investment Income	\$ 64.42
Book Sales	\$ 339.00	Membership Dues	<u>\$1,740.00</u>
Checklist Sales	\$ 102.00		\$3,625.42

OUTFLOWS:

Xmas Bird Count	\$ 21.18	Postage	\$ 334.02
Web Site Fees	\$ 119.40	Donation – J.Arnold Scholar.Fund	\$ 500.00
Education	\$ 731.71	Printing Newsletter	\$ 479.45
Misc (Picnic site rental	\$ 42.00	Royalties – <u>Birds of Sonoma County</u>	\$ 104.07
Office Supplies	\$ 7.53	State Sales Tax	<u>\$ 18.00</u>
			\$ 2,357.36

Net Cash Flow for the Fiscal Year - \$1,268.06

ENDING BANK BALANCES

Checking Account	\$ 2,907.47	TOTAL ENDING BANK BALANCES - \$5,913.70
Investment Certificate	\$ 3,006.23	

Observations – Aug. - September 2009 - Report by Ruth Rudesill

Bird Species	Date	Location	Co.	#	Observers	Notes
✓ Hooded Merganser	9/5-18/09	Bodega Farm Pond	SON	1f	AW, BDP, KMu, mob	
Laysan Albatross	8/12/09	off shore	SON/MRN	1	DLSh, mob	Black-footed
Albatross	8/12-15/09	off shore	SON/MRN	30-40	DLSh, RS, mob	
✓ Short-tailed Albatross	9/16/09	24 mi off shore	SON?	1	SNGH, DLSh	
Northern Fulmar	8/12-15/09	off shore	SON/MRN	9-28	DLSh, RS, mob	
✓ Hawaiian Petrel	8/12/09	far offshore	SON	1-2	DLSh, mob	
Hawaiian Petrel	8/15/09	beyond Cordell Bank	MRN	1	RS, AW photo	mob
✓ Cook's Petrel	8/12/09	23 mi offshore	SON	11	DLSh, mob	
✓ Cook's Petrel	8/15/09	30 mi offshore	SON	2-3	RS, RAR, mob	
Pterodroma sp.	8/12/09	off shore	SON/MRN	3	DLSh, mob	
Pink-fronted Shearwater	8/12-15/09	off shore	SON/MRN	22-50	DLSh, RS, mob	
Buller's Shearwater	8/12-15/09	off shore	SON/MRN	16-38	DLSh, RS, mob	
Sooty Shearwater	8/12-15/09	off shore	SON/MRN	42-60	DLSh, RS, mob	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	8/12-15/09	off shore	SON/MRN	1	DLSh, RS, mob	first of the fall

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Wilson's Storm-Petrel	9/5/09	off shore	SON/MRN		DLSh, PBC, mob
Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel	8/12/09	off shore	SON/MRN	40	DLSh first of the fall
Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel	8/15/09	off shore	SON/MRN	46	RS, mob high #s
Leach's Storm-Petrel	9/5/09	off shore	SON/MRN		DLSh, PBC, mob
Ashy Storm-Petrel	8/12-15/09	off shore	SON/MRN	30-150	DLSh, RS, mob
Black Storm-Petrel	9/5/09	off shore	SON/MRN		DLSh, PBC, mob
Least Bittern	8/23/09	Yolo Bypass Wildlife area	YOL	3	PBC, RAR adult/2juv
✓ Swainson's Hawk	8/14/09	Riverside Reg Park	SON	1	JW
Merlin	8/21/09	Hwy 37 near Lakeville Hwy	SON	1	RAR
✓ Clapper Rail	9/12/09	Ellis Creek Water Recycling Fac.	SON	1	AW heard only
✓ Sora	9/6/09	Ellis Creek Wetlands	SON	4	CSe
✓ American Golden- Plover	9/18-19/09	Doran Reg park	SON	1juv	RS, BD, HK
✓ Pacific Golden-Plover	8/15-9/8/09	Shollenberger Park	SON	2-4	BBg, BD, HK, AW, mob
✓ Pacific Golden-Plover	8/30/09	Doran harbor side	SON	1	GS
✓ Spotted Sandpiper	9/7-12/09	Rail Ponds	SON	1	LHg, RAR, EB
✓ Lesser Yellowlegs	9/18/09	Carmody Rd Pond	SON	2	KP
✓ Red Knot	8/24-25/09	Bodega Harbor	SON	1-4	SC, BDP, DF, AK
✓ Semipalmated Sandpiper	8/30/09	Doran harbor side	SON	1	RoM
✓ Baird's Sandpiper	8/24-9/6/09	Bodega Harbor	SON	1juv	SC, BDP, RoM
✓ Baird's Sandpiper	9/7/09	Carmody Rd Pond	SON	1	RAR, LHg, EB
✓ Pectoral Sandpiper	8/25/09	Doran mudflats	SON	1	BDP, DHo
✓ Pectoral Sandpiper	9/16/09	Sonoma Mt Rd pond	SON	1	RS
✓ Pectoral Sandpiper	9/7-18/09	Carmody Rd Pond	SON	1	RAR, BDP, KP
✓ Ruff	9/5/09	Doran mudflats	SON	1 juv	DR
✓ Ruff	9/12/09	Gaffney Point	SON	1juv	DN, RAR, CB same bird?
✓ Wilson's Snipe	8/23/09	Ellis Creek Water Recycling Fac	SON	2	AW early
✓ Wilson's Phalarope	8/23/09	Petaluma River mudflats	SON	10	RJ
✓ Wilson's Phalarope	8/24/09	Doran mudflats	SON	4	DF
Wilson's Phalarope	8/24/09	Hwy 37 ponds	SOL	2	RAR
Red-necked Phalarope	8/15/09	off shore	SON/MRN	85	RS, mob
Red Phalarope	8/15/09	off shore	SON/MRN	12	RS, mob
✓ Bonaparte's Gull	8/15/09	Shollenberger Park	SON	3	BBg
✓ Bonaparte's Gull	9/16/09	Gaffney Point	SON	2	DF
Sabine's Gull	8/12-15/09	off shore	SON/MRN	9-25	RS, DLSh, mob
Black Tern	8/25-26/09	Hwy 37 ponds	SOL	2	PCB, RAR
Common Tern	8/15/09	off shore	SON/MRN	10	RS, mob
Arctic Tern	8/12-15/09	off shore	SON/MRN	4-44	RS, DLSh, mob
✓ Arctic Tern	8/22/09	Bodega Harbor	SON	1	RLeb
South Polar Skua	8/15/09	off shore	SON/MRN	1	RS, mob
Pomarine Jaeger	8/12-15/09	off shore	SON/MRN	2-7	DLSh, RS, mob
✓ Pomarine Jaeger	8/24/09	off Bodega Head	SON	1	SC
✓ Pomarine Jaeger	8/29/09	off Bodega Head	SON	1	RoM dark phase
✓ Parasitic Jaeger	8/24/09	off Bodega Head	SON	1	SC
Long-tailed Jaeger	8/12-15/09	off shore	SON/MRN	55-125	DLSh, RS, mob
✓ Common Murre	8/16/09	near Austin Creek	SON	1	LP sick/lost
✓ Common Murre	8/12/09	off shore	SON	500	DLSh, mob
✓ Marbled Murrelet	9/5/09	Russian River mouth	SON	20+	AW, BDP, mob
✓ Xantu's Murre	8/12/09	off shore	SON	2	DLSh, mob
Cassin's Auklet near shore)	8/12-15/09	off shore	SON/MRN	48-80	RS, mob (unusually)
✓ Rhinoceros Auklet	8/12-15/09	off shore	SON/MRN	12-20	DLSh, RS, mob
✓ Common Night hawk	8/2/09	Mendocino x Chanate Rds	SON	1	JW
✓ Vaux's Swift	9/12/09	Rio Lindo Academy Hldsbrg	SON	3000+	RC
✓ Olive-sided Flycatcher	8/21/09	Spring Lake Reg Park	SON	1	BD
✓ Willow Flycatcher	8/21/09	Spring Lake Reg Park	SON	1	BD
✓ Willow Flycatcher	8/23/09	Santa Rosa Mem Park	SON	2	SC
✓ Willow Flycatcher	8/23/09	East Petaluma	SON	1	AW yard bird
✓ Willow Flycatcher	8/29/09	ent Owl Canyon	SON	2-3	RoM, RAR
✓ Willow Flycatcher	9/1-8/09	Campbell Cove	SON	2-3	DN, BDP
✓ Tropical Kingbird	8/27/09	shore Petaluma River	SON	2	DN, MR
✓ Western Kingbird	8/26-9/1/09	Owl Canyon	SON	1	DF, RAR, DN
✓ Loggerhead Shrike	8/23/09	Ellis Creek Wetlands	SON	1	RJ
✓ Purple Martin	9/8/09	Campbell Cove	SON	4	BDP

✓ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	8/21/09	Spring Lake Reg Park	SON	1	BD
✓ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	9/13/09	outer Pt. Reyes-Lighthouse	MRN	2	RAR, mob
✓ Gray Catbird	9/1-14/09	Campbell Cove	SON	1	DN
✓ California Thrasher	8/23/09	Sebastopol yard	SON	1	VB
✓ Tennessee Warbler	9/14-16/09	Owl Canyon	SON	1	DF, DN
✓ Northern Parula	9/1/09	West County Trail	SON	1m	LHg
✓ Cape May Warbler	9/13/09	OP Fish Docks pines	MRN	1f	mob
✓ Yellow-rumped Warbler	9/1/09	Campbell Cove	SON	1	DN early
✓ Hermit Warbler	9/18/09	Campbell Cove	SON	1f	RAR
American Redstart	9/10/09	OP Lighthouse trees	MRN	1	PBC
American Redstart	9/13/09	OP Mendoza trees	MRN	1	PBC, RAR
✓ American Redstart	9/12-16/09	Owl Canyon	SON	1	AK, DF, DN
✓ MacGillivray's Warbler	9/15/09	Spring Lake Reg Park	SON	1	RAR
Green-tailed Towhee	9/13/09	OP Lighthouse area	MRN	1	MB,RAR, PBC, mob
✓ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	8/27/09	Sebastopol yard	SON	1m	VB
✓ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	9/13/09	Occidental yard	SON	1m	MH
Passerina sp.	9/14/09	Campbell Cove	SON	1	DN possible Painted
✓ Great-tailed Grackle	8/16-27/09	Ellis Creek Wetlands	SON	3	BDy, mob 2juv
Hooded Oriole	7/31/09	Oakmont yard	SON	2 pr	BGr
✓ Lawrence's Goldfinch	8/27/09	Kenwood	SON	2	RAR

Observers: Bob Battigan -BBg, Ellen Blustein, Carol Brant, Mark Butler, Scott Carey, Rich Cimino, Peter B. Colasanti, Bill Doyle, Bob Dyer, Dea Freid, Betty Groce, Helen Kochenderfer, Mike Heffernon, David Hofmann, Steve N.G. Howell, Lisa Hug, Robert Jackson, Andy Kleinhesselink, Rick Lebadour, Roger Marlowe, Dominik Mosur, Kathy Mugele, Dan Nelson, Dan Noreen, Kathy Parker, BD "Mike" Parmeter, Linda Petrulias, Don Reinberg, Mary Rooney, Ruth A. Rudesill, Gary Scheppke, Chris Selvig, Debra Love Shearwater, Rich Stallcup, Alan Wight and Jon Winter

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“THE TIME HAS COME”, THE WALRUS SAID, “TO TALK OF MANY THINGS” YOU MAY BE THINKING OF SHOES, SHIPS AND CABBAGES BUT PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR RROS MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTION.

The official RROS membership form is on page 6.

RROS DUES/MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Mail to Don Howard, 979 Hogwarts Circle, Petaluma CA 94954

New member _____ Renewing member _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Send newsletter by email _____ Send newsletter by USPS _____

Individual dues (\$15) _____ Family (\$20) _____ Student (\$5) _____

Total enclosed _____

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KITE TALES
979 Hogwarts Circle
Petaluma CA 94954
OCTOBER 2008



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