



Kite Tales

Volume 45 Number 3

NOVEMBER 2009

NOVEMBER 12th - GENERAL MEETING - 7:00 p.m.

Our speaker will be: **GEOFFREY GEUPEL**, Director of Terrestrial Ecology at PRBO. He will lecture on using bird monitoring data to promote conservation.

How about dinner before the meetings? Meet at 5:30 p. m. at Star Restaurant, 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.

SANTA ROSA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - SUNDAY, DEC. 20th

Mike Parmeter is the person to call - **707-255-6757** - if you would like to participate and have **not** been assigned to an area. The after-the-count round-up spot will be announced at the Nov. meeting and in the Dec. Kite Tales.

RROS EVENTS CALENDAR**Saturday, November 14, 2009 - Field Trip** - Bolinas Lagoon and environs.

This trip will combine the best of water birding and land birding of this season. Bring binoculars, scopes, field guides, water, lunch, sunscreen, hats, and layers. For carpooling, meet 7:30 a.m. at the Petaluma park-n-ride at Hwy 116 and Lakeville. Or, meet at the south end of the Stinson Beach Parking Lot at 8:30 a.m. Leader; Ruth Rudesill 833-6026. Questions; Ellen Blustein 789-0970. Heavy rain cancels.

Sunday, December 20th - Christmas Bird Count**Saturday, January 9th - Field Trip** - Solano County/Cosumnes Preserve.

Leader: Ken Wilson.

February 12 - 15 - Field Trip - Klamath Basin - Leader: Ruth Rudesill

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**RROS Officers**

President Rhio Reigh	1604 Austin Way, Santa Rosa 95404	rhioreigh@juno.com	579-3400
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Treas. Don Howard	979 Hogwarts Circle, Petaluma 94954	binkybunji2@comcast.net	778-0407

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.

FIELD TRIP REPORT - Bodega Bay and Harbor, Oct. 17th

Leader: Mike Parmeter. Participants: Deyea Harper, Jack Harper, Helen Kochenderfer, Joel H. Hornstein, Jim Fritzhand, Elaine Pruett, Andy Lacasse, Don Kirker, Jean Tonascia, Ruth Tonascia, Don Reinberg, Ted Eliot, Ann Stone, Rhio Reigh, Jocelyn Gardner, Jack Jones, Marilyn Jones, Dea Freid, Jim Clegg, Jane Clegg, Wendy Peterson, Peter Colasanti, Phil Persons, Elmarie Hutchinson, Craig Roth, Annette Roth, Lisa Hug.

Trip List (90 species): Canada Goose, Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, California Quail, Pacific Loon, Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Eared Grebe, Continued on page 3

Western Grebe, Clark's Grebe, American White Pelican, Brown Pelican, Brandt's Cormorant, Double-crested Cormorant, Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Virginia Rail, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Black-bellied Plover, Killdeer, Black Oystercatcher, Greater Yellowlegs, Willet, Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Black Turnstone, Surf-bird, Red Knot, Sanderling, Western Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitcher, Heerman's Gull, Mew Gull, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, Western Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Barn Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Warbling Vireo, Western Scrub-Jay, Common Raven, Bewick's Wren, House Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Western Bluebird, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Wrentit, European Starling, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Spotted Towhee, California Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, American Goldfinch.

Observations - October 2009 - Report by Ruth Rudesill

Bird Species	Date	Location	Co.	#	Observers
Notes					
✓ Gr White-fronted Goose	9/30/09	Ellis Creek Facility	SON	1	BDy
✓ Gr White-fronted Goose	10/26/09	Carmody Rd	SON	1	BDP, Awgh, RLeb RMe
✓ White-winged Scoter	10/26/09	off Duncan's Landing	SON	1	BDP, AWgh, RLeb, RMe
Black Scoter	9/27/09	Drake's bay	MRN	1f	RAR
✓ Sooty Grouse	9/26/09	King Ridge Rd	SON	9	BDP, AWgh, RLeb, RMe
✓ Am White Pelican	9/27/09	Sonoma Napa Marshes	SOL	200+	TRu, DPe
✓ White-faced Ibis	9/24/09	Bodega Farm Pond	SON	1	KWi, mob
✓ White-faced Ibis	9/27/09	Valley Ford Estero	SON	sev	BD, HK
✓ Common Black Hawk	10/3/09	Laguna area	SON	1	SMo
Ferruginous Hawk	10/10/09	Pt Reyes Nunes Ranch	MRN	1	mob
✓ Ferruginous Hawk	10/3/09	along Bodega Ave	SON	1	KWi
✓ Golden Eagle	9/27/09	Penngrove	SON	1	AWgh
✓ Golden Eagle	10/30/9	along Bodega Ave	SON	2	KWi
Peregrine Falcon	10/14/09	Lakeville near Ellis Creek	SON	1	BDy Peale's
✓ Prairie Falcon	9/27-28/09	Valley Ford Estero	SON	1	BD, HK, LHg
✓ Black Rail	9/26/09	Petaluma Marsh	SON	2	BDP, AWgh, RMe, RLeb
✓ American Golden-Plover	9/19-10/3/09	Bodega harbor	SON	1	RSc, BLe, KWi mob
✓ Pacific Golden-Plover	9/26-10/3/09	Shollenberger Park	SON	2-5	mob, DoM
Pacific Golden-Plover	10/10/09	Pt Ryes Spelletta Plateau	MRN	6-7	PBC, RAR
✓ Solitary Sandpiper	10/24-26/09	Club Rd pond Novato	MRN	1	DHe, RAR, PBC, TC mob
✓ Lesser Yellowlegs	9/28/09	Sonoma Mt Rd	SON	1	DoM
✓ Red Knot	10/3/09	Spud Pt Bodega harbor	SON	2	RAR, BSp, KWi
✓ Pectoral Sandpiper	9/24/09	Carmody Farm Pond	SON	1	KWi mob
✓ Pectoral Sandpiper	9/20/09	Nacasio Reservoir	MRN	1	RAR
✓ Pectoral Sandpiper	9/26/09	Salmon Creek Bridge	SON	1	BD, HK

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✓ Pectoral Sandpiper	9/27-28/09	Valley Ford Estero	SON	5-8	BD, HK, LHg	high #
✓ Pectoral Sandpiper	9/26-27/09	Pt Reyes Speletta Slop ponds	MRN	1	TC, RAR, mob	
✓ Pectoral Sandpiper	10/3/09	Farm Pond Bodega Ave	SON	2	KWi	
✓ Stilt Sandpiper	10/26/09	Pt Reyes Speletta Slop Ponds	MRN	1	TC	
✓ Ancient Murrelet	9/21/09	off Bodega Head	SON	1	PH, PW	
✓ Spotted Owl	9/26/09	Sugarloaf State Park	SON	1	RAR	
✓ Common Poorwill	9/28/09	Occidental driveway	SON	1	RoM, JMa	
✓ Vaux's Swift	9/20/09	Rio Lindo Healdsburg	SON	6000	VB	
✓ Lewis's Woodpecker	10/10-18/09	Pt Reyes Speletta C Ranch	MRN	1	mob	
✓ Willow Flycatcher	9/21/09	Owl Canyon	SON	1	PH, PW	
✓ Willow Flycatcher	10/11/09	Owl Canyon	SON	1	HK	
✓ Tropical Kingbird	10/3-4/09	Doran Reg Park	SON	1	RSc, BLe, DF, KWi mob	
Tropical Kingbird	10/10-11/09	Pt Reyes Fish Docks	MRN	1	mob	
Red-eyed Vireo	10/2/09	Pine Gulch Creek	MRN	1	RAR	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	10/9-17/09	outer Pt Reyes	MRN	100s	mob	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	9/26/09	lower Tolay Creek	SON	2-3	RAR mob	
✓ Townsend's Solitaire	9/20/09	top Mt St Helena	SON	2	MBe	
Sage Thrasher	10/10-18/09	outer Pt Reyes	MRN	1	DShu, mob	
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	10/15/09	Princeton Harbor	SM	1	PBC, AG	
✓ Cedar Waxwing	9/20/09	Spring Lake Reg Park	SON	100+	RAR	
Tennessee Warbler	10/10-11/09	Pt Reyes Lighthouse trees	MRN	2	PBC, RAR, mob	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	9/19/09	Bodega Bay yard	SON	12+	NC	
Black-thr Gray Warbler	10/1/09	sw Sebastopol yard	SON	1	WP	
Townsend's Warbler	10/2/09	Pine Gulch Creek	MRN	12+	RAR	
Prairie Warbler	9/27/09	Pt Reyes Fish Docks	MRN	1	mob	
Palm Warbler	10/11/09	Pt Reyes Lighthouse area	MRN	1	RAR	
Blackpoll Warbler	9/27/09	Pt Reyes Lighthouse	MRN	1	RAR	
Black and White Warbler	10/20/09	Pine Gulch Creek	MRN	1	RAR	
✓ Black and White warbler	10/20/09	Bodega Marie Lab Ent	SON	1	DHo	
✓ American Redstart	10/10/09	Bodega Lab Entrance	SON	1	RP	
✓ MacGillivray's Warbler	9/19/09	Doran Reg Park	SON	1	DF	
✓ MacGillivray's Warbler	10/26/09	King Ridge Rd	SON	1	BDP, RMe, RLeb, AWgh	
Canada Warbler	10/11/09	Pt Reyes Jr Mendoza	MRN	1	RAR, mob	
Chipping Sparrow	10/11/09	Pt Reyes Nunes Ranch	MRN	sev	RAR, mob	
Clay-colored Sparrow	10/10/11/09	Pt Reyes Nunes Ranch	MRN	1	mob	
✓ Brewer's Sparrow	10/4-10/09	Reclamation Rd	SON	1	LHg photo, RAR mob	
Vesper Sparrow	9/27/09	Pt Reyes Fish Docks	MRN	1	RAR	
Vesper Sparrow	10/10-11/09	outer Pt Reyes	MRN	1	mob	
✓ White-throated Sparrow	10/17/09	Spring Lake Reg Park	SON	2	BD, mob	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	10/10-11/09	Pt Reyes Fish Docks	MRN	1 juv	mob, RAR	

Observers: Murray Berner, Veronica Bowers, Peter B. Colasanti, Terry Colburn, Nancy Conzett, Bill Doyle, Bob Dyer, Dea Freid, Arnel Guanlao, Phil Henderson, David Herrma, David Hofmann, Lisa Hug, Helen Kochenderfer, Rick LeBaudour, Bob Lewis, Julie Marlowe, Roger Marlowe, Richard Merriss, Stan Moore, Dominik Moser, Benjamin D. "Mike" Parmeter, Darren Peterie, Wendy Peterson, Ron Pozzi, Ruth A Rudesill, Tom Rusert, Rusty Scalf, Bob Speckels, Dave Shuford, Pete White, Alan Wight and Ken Wilson

Welcome to New Members: Cynthia Bayer, Gay Bishop, Rhonda Odegard, and Patrick Woodward.

Thanks for Generous Donations: Cynthia Bayer, Andrew Lacasse and Jack and Marilyn Jones.

Results from the Luke Cole Challenge Sept 26 and 27, 2009 for Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment

There were counters in all 58 California counties and the final total was 387 species statewide!! There were some amazing pelagic and vagrants found. Our own Sonoma County Gray Jays PRBO Birdathon team of Mike Parmeter, Rick LeBaudour, Richard Merriss and Alan Wight contributed 2 species unique to the count for the first tally - Black Rail and White-winged Scoter!

Big thank you to all who submitted their totals to me - the Sonoma County total was 178 species. View results at

<http://www.markeaton.org/lukeColeChallenge.html>

Ruth Rudesill

We are very sad to report the death on Oct. 20th of Jack Troutfetter, a long-time RROS member. Jack was a true birder, but one who never achieved his life-birding ambition of seeing a Mountain Quail in the wild. May he have been shepherded into heaven by all those elusive birds who were hiding in the bushes on the many occasions when he searched for them.

AMAZING ACORN WOODPECKER BEHAVIOR

This is an excerpt from Tim Birkhead's book *The Wisdom of Birds*. In the chapter on instinct and intelligence, which is called Preparation for Life, he relates the following incident that some researchers observed while studying acorn woodpeckers in California:

An intensely social, group-living bird, the acorn woodpecker is best known for its spectacular granaries of stored acorns. Groups comprise a pair of breeding birds and several male offspring from previous breeding seasons that stay at home to help their parents rear subsequent broods. Young females, however, leave home and have to join another group. It is this dispersal behaviour my house-mates were studying, keeping track of radio-tagged, colour-ringed females as they prepared to leave their natal group. One day the researchers came back unable to contain their excitement at what they had seen. A female they had been watching for several days had set off that morning, flying some ten kilometers (seven miles) directly to another woodpecker group that she apparently wanted to join. The group's resident males had other ideas and chased her away. The female flew home again and began interacting noisily with her brothers. Later, accompanied by her brothers the female set off, flying straight back to the new group, where the female's brothers attacked the resident males, and departed only once their sister had been accepted by the group!

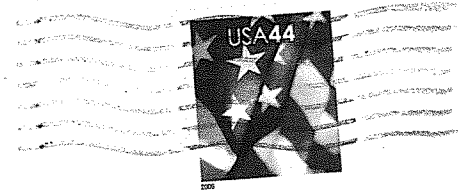
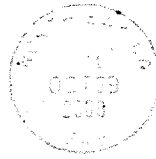
International Bird Rescue Research Center needs financial help to save birds caught in deadly algae bloom. Thousands of seabirds are dying along the coast of Oregon and Washington state, soiled by an unusual sea slime caused by algal blooming. Hundreds more birds, still fighting for their lives, have washed up on nearby beaches.

Because of the sheer number of casualties, International Bird Rescue is treating this emergency as an oil spill, with one significant difference – there is no oil. This means that there is no responsible party and therefore no financial support for our rescue effort.

We have mobilized our experienced team but we need your help to save these beautiful birds. We need to find \$50,000 to pay for their care - medication, food for the birds and other supplies and equipment. We can only do this with your help.

Please donate online now or send a check and help us reach this financial goal. Your generosity will truly make a world of difference.

Donate online www.ibrrc.org or send check to: IBRRC, 4369 Cordelia Rd., Fairfield, CA 94534
Call 707- 207-0380 for more information.



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