



# Kite Tales

Volume 45 Number 6

Feb. 2010

**February 11<sup>th</sup> - General Meeting - 7:00 PM**

## **Birding and Unrivaled Game Watching**

Bryant and Diane Hichwa will take us on a photo safari of Southern Africa. Join this couple in visiting spectacular areas of Namibia and Botswana and discover amazing scenery and wildlife.

They will explore the bush areas of northern South Africa, the vast, pristine highlands and ochre-colored dunes of Namibia, the lagoons of the Skeleton Coast, the backwaters of the Okavanga Delta, the savanna in Chobe National Park on the Zambezi River and more. Each region contains a fascinating variety of wildlife. In Makulu Makete, a private reserve known for "rewilding" cheetahs and for hundreds of baobab trees, they photographed painted wolves, an elusive and endangered species that is making a comeback. The varied habitat supports a rich variety of birds - Blue Crane, Monteiro's Hornbill, both the Malachite and Great Kingfisher, Yellow-billed Stork, and Pearl-spotted Owlets to name just a few. The safari combines views of beautiful scenery with waterholes and rivers that draw in mammals such as Roan and Sable antelope, Kudu, cheetah, and black rhino for which these regions are famous. The final stop is in Livingston, Zambia, where they marvel at one of the Seven Wonders of the Natural World, the spectacular Victoria Falls.

**How about dinner before the meetings?** 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.

**COMING ATTRACTIONS**

**Field Trip February 13 – 15** - Klamath Basin – Leader: Ruth Rudesill

This interesting area is a great winter spot for Bald Eagles, raptors and waterfowl. Occasionally we have found rarities such as Northern Shrike, Bohemian Waxwing, and Trumpeter Swan. Bring binoculars, scopes, field guides, lunches, water, and very warm clothes. We will be staying at the Days Inn in Klamath Falls, Oregon. There are 3 deluxe, double queen, non-smoking rooms at \$64/night being held for RROS, for Friday, Saturday & Sunday. Standard rooms are \$59. Phone number for making reservations is (541) 882-8864. They will put a room in your name. We will meet in the hotel parking lot each morning (Saturday, Sunday & Monday.) Meet at 8:00 a.m. Saturday to go out for the day. If the weather is good, we may get up extra early one morning to see the Bald Eagle flyout at dawn and then return to the hotel before going out for the day. There is continental breakfast at the hotel 6am-8am. Denny's is open 24 hrs down the block. Bring food for lunches in the field. We will plan to have dinners at restaurants in Klamath Falls. Please email or call Ellen Blustein at [evireo@gmail.com](mailto:evireo@gmail.com) or 707-789-0970 if you plan to go on this trip. Carpooling is encouraged. We need your cell phone numbers.

**General Meeting March 11** - Matthew Matthiessen's adventures in Borneo

**Field Trip March 13** - Ellis Creek and Schollenberger Park - We will visit the new Ellis Creek water treatment ponds and Schollenberger Park. Other locations will be chosen as time allows. This should be a great trip for water birds and shorebirds. Bring optics, field guides, water, food, layered clothes, hat, gloves. Meet 8a.m. at the Ellis Creek parking area at the end of Cypress ( past PRBO and UPS) in Petaluma. Heavy rain cancels. Leader Andy Le Casse Questions call Ellen Blustein 707-789-0970

**April 23-25** – Pt. Reyes Birding Festival [www.eacmarin.org](http://www.eacmarin.org)

**April 8 General Meeting** – Diane Humple - "Genetic Structures and Demographic Impacts of Oil Spills in Western and Clark's Grebes"

**August Field Trip** - Owen's Valley: We are planning a 4 day trip to the eastern Sierra around the last weekend of August. We need a good idea of the number of people who will come. Please, call or e-mail Ellen Blustein 707-789-0970 or [evireo@gmail.com](mailto:evireo@gmail.com) if you are interested.

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**Results of Santa Rosa Christmas Bird Count on Dec 20, 2009 by**

**Ruth Rudesill** Much better weather than last year! 49 participants in 14 teams made up the count this year. We had 141 species (plus 1 cw) same as the 20 year average of 141.

Special thanks to: Mike Parmeter for helping put the teams together, Rhio Reigh for arranging the dinner, and Don Howard for handling the money end of it.

**Species and total seen:** Gr White-fronted Goose 6, Cackling Goose 43, Canada Goose 885, Wood Duck 25, Gadwall 23, American Wigeon 137, Mallard 729, Northern Shoveler 109, Northern Pintail 1, Green-winged Teal 72, Canvasback 1, Ring-necked Duck 19, Greater Scaup 2, Bufflehead 166, Common Goldeneye 14, Hooded Merganser 5, Common Merganser 59, Ruddy Duck 121, Wild Turkey 240, California Quail 322, Pied-billed Grebe 39, Horned Grebe 1, Eared Grebe 1, Am White Pelican 14, Double-cr. Cormorant 86,

Continued on page 3

3x5

American Bittern 1, Great Blue Heron 19, Great Egret 50, Snowy Egret 22, Cattle Egret 33, Green Heron 2, Black-Cr. Night-Heron 13, Turkey Vulture 216, Osprey 1, White-tailed Kite 27, Northern Harrier 3, Sharp-shinned Hawk 7, Cooper's Hawk 2, Accipiter sp. 2, **Bald Eagle 1, Common Black Hawk 1**, Red-shouldered Hawk 58, Red-tailed Hawk 73, Golden Eagle 2, American Kestrel 60, Peregrine Falcon 5, Prairie Falcon 1, Virginia Rail 1, Sora 4, Moorhen 5, American Coot 412, Killdeer 395, Black-necked Stilt 13, Spotted Sandpiper 1, Greater Yellowlegs 16, Western Sandpiper 6, Least Sandpiper 37, Calidris sp. 25, Long-billed Dowitcher 54, Wilson's Snipe 14, Mew Gull 76, Ring-billed Gull 1076, California Gull 120, Herring Gull 5, Thayer's Gull 2, Western Gull 18, Glaucous-winged Gull 4, Larus sp. 165, Rock Pigeon 355, Band-tailed Pigeon 422, Eurasian Collared-Dove 19, Mourning Dove 266, Barn Owl 1, Western Screech-Owl 5, Great Horned Owl 7, Nor Pygmy-Owl 3, **Burrowing Owl 2**, Spotted Owl 1, Nor Saw-whet Owl 2, Anna's Hummingbird 147, Belted Kingfisher 12, Acorn Woodpecker 304, **Red-br. Sapsucker 10**, Nuttall's Woodpecker 72, Downy Woodpecker 30, Hairy Woodpecker 13, Northern Flicker 137 incl 1 Yellow-shafted, Pileated Woodpecker 2, Black Phoebe 140, Say's Phoebe 18, Hutton's Vireo 13, Steller's Jay 76, Western Scrub-Jay 390, American Crow 1283, Common Raven 68, Tree Swallow 80, **Violet-green Swallow 1**, Chestnut-backed Chickadee 198, Oak Titmouse 183, Bushtit 574, White-br. Nuthatch 47, Brown Creeper 15, Bewick's Wren 31, Winter Wren 6, Marsh Wren 5, Golden-cr Kinglet 27, Ruby-cr Kinglet 194, Western Bluebird 346, Hermit Thrush 45, American Robin 1816, Varied Thrush 11, Wrentit 12, Nor Mockingbird 85, **California Thrasher 1**, Eur Starling 3000, American Pipit 89, Cedar Waxwing 432, **Orange-cr Warbler 3**, Yellow-rumped Warbler 459, **Townsend's Warbler 23**, Common Yellowthroat 2, Western Tanager cw, Spotted Towhee 115, California Towhee 363, Lark Sparrow 26, Savannah Sparrow 159, Fox Sparrow 49, Song Sparrow 113, Lincoln's Sparrow 18, **Swamp Sparrow 2**, White-throated Sparrow 8, White-crowned Sparrow 664, Golden-crowned Sparrow 571, sparrow sp 102, Dark-eyed Junco 707 incl 1 Slate-colored, Red-winged Blackbird 1269, Western Meadowlark 352, Brewer's Blackbird 1624, Br-headed Cowbird 29, blackbird sp 224, Purple Finch 22, House Finch 482, Pine Siskin 19, Lesser Goldfinch 200, American Goldfinch 455, and House Sparrow 196.

**Participants:** Betty Burrige, Ellen Blustein, Peter Colasanti, Bill Doyle, Ted Eliot, Chris Engel, Liz Ferrari, Dea Freid, Betty Groce, Gary & Terry Haag, Jack & Deyea Harper, Joel Hornstein, Lisa Hug, Chris & Juli Inman, Carolyn Johnson, Don Kirker, Helen Kochenderfer, Andy Lacasse, Rick LeBaudour, Bill Lenarz, Don McCarthy, Tom McCuller, Richard Merriss, Stan Moore, Ian Morrison, Gerry & Lily Mugele, Kathy Mugele, Mike Nelligan, Dan Nelson, Rob O'Donnell, BD Parmeter, Darren Peterie, Linda Petrulias, Elaine Pruett, Rhio Reigh, Craig Roth, Ruth Rudesill, Tom Rusert, Phyllis Schmitt, Bob Speckels, Colin Talcroft, Jerry & Karen Wagner, Al & Glo Wellman.

### Field Trip Report by Ken Wilson

On Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, twenty members and friends of RROS participated in a field trip to Staten Island in San Joaquin County followed by lunch and further birding at Consumnes River Preserve and Visitor Center in Sacramento County. At two o'clock the group drove to Robinson and Flannery Roads in Solano County to finish out the day's birding. Our total group count for the day was eighty-two species, some of which were 'ifers' for participants and 'county birds' for others.

Sightings of note were the high numbers of Tundra Swan and the many groups of Sandhill Crane. One group of cranes allowed a size comparison between the Greater and Lesser subspecies. A group of geese on Staten Island contained both Canada and Cackling Geese, the latter including several 'Aleutians'. Enroute to the Consumnes River Preserve a  
Continued on page 4

## Observations

December - January

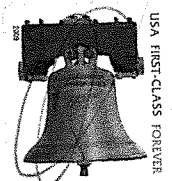
Report by Ruth Rudesill

Bird Species	Date	Location	Co.	#	Observers	Notes
✓ Gr. White-fronted Goose	12/23/09	Ellis Creek Project	SON	3	BDP	
Gr. White-fronted Goose	12/23/09	Milton Rd	NAP	3	BDP	
✓ Gr. White-fronted Goose	12/24/09	Bodega Farm Pond	SON	5	BDP	
✓ Gr. White-fronted Goose	1/3/10	over Bodega Head	SON	55	BDP, DHo, AW, DN	
✓ Ross's Goose	1/5/10	Ellis Creek Facility	SON	1	EBl	
✓ Cackling Goose	12/24/09	Bodega Farm Pond	SON	20	BDP	
✓ Cackling Goose	12/25/09	Ellis Creek Project	SON	24	BDP, JP	
✓ Cackling Goose	1/1/10	Lake Hennessey	NAP	1	BDP	
✓ Cackling Goose	1/13-14/10	Ellis Creek Facility	SON	1	BDy, mob	
✓ Tundra Swan	Dec- 1/18/10	Ellis Creek Facility	SON	1 juv	mob	
✓ Eurasian Wigeon	12/25/09	Bodega Farm Pond	SON	1m	BSp	
✓ Eurasian Wigeon	1/5-15/10	Ellis Creek Facility	SON	2 (1m, 1f)	BDP, BDy, PBC, RAR	Eurasian
Wigeon	1/7-8/10	Atascadero Marsh	SON	1	BD	
✓ Blue-winged Teal	12/25/09-1/18/10	Ellis Creek Facility	SON	8-13	BDP, JP, DHo, mob	
✓ Redhead	1/5/10	Petaluma Sewer Ponds	SON	2	BD	
✓ White-winged Scoter	12/24/09-1/3/10	Bodega Harbor	SON	1f	BDP, DHo, AW, DN	
✓ Barrow's Goldeneye	1/14/10	near Sonoma Co airport	SON	1m	ELi	
Barrow's Goldeneye	1/8/10	Atascadero Marsh	SON	1f	BD	
Hooded Merganser	12/20/09	pond near Oakmont	SON	1 pr	IM	
Hooded Merganser	1/8/10	Atascadero Marsh	SON	5	BD	
Red-necked Grebe	1/3/10	Bodega Harbor	SON	4	BDP, RAR, mob	
Am White Pelican	12/20/09	Delta Pond	SON	8	BDP, BiL	
Pelagic Cormorant	12/25/09	off Bodega Head	SON	1	KWi, BOI	leucistic
✓ American Bittern	12/20/09	Spring Lake Reg Park	SON	1	RAR	
✓ American Bittern	1/15/10	Ellis Creek Facility	SON	1	RAR	
✓ Bald Eagle	12/20/09	Laguna area	SON	1ad	SM	
Bald Eagle	12/25/09	Lake Hennessey	NAP	2 ad/juv	BDP	
✓ Bald Eagle	12/27/09-1/2/10	Bodega Harbor	SON	1	DF	
✓ Common Black Hawk	12/20/09	Laguna area	SON	1	SM	
✓ Rough-legged Hawk	1/2/10	Hudemann Slough	SON	1	BD, HK	
✓ Ferruginous Hawk	12/25/09	Sonoma Mt Road	SON	1	BDP	
✓ Ferruginous Hawk	1/2/10	Shorttail Gulch	SON	1	DF	
Merlin	12/13/09	Martinoni/ Peterson Rds	SON	2	SM	Prairie/Black race
Merlin	12/22/09	Ellis Creek Facility	SON	1	RLe	
Merlin	1/15/10	Ellis Creek Facility	SON	2	PBC	
✓ Peregrine Falcon	12/20/09	Santa Rpsa CBC area	SON	5	BDP, mob	
✓ Prairie Falcon	1/15/10	Crane Creek Reg Park	SON	1	BD	
✓ Black Rail	1/1/10	Petaluma River	SON	6	BSp, DK	
✓ Clapper Rail	1/1/10	Petaluma River	SON	1	RAR	
✓ Common Moorhen	12/24/09	Hole-in -the Head	SON	1	BDP	
✓ Pacific Golden-Plover	12/25/09-1/11/10	Shollenberger/Ellis Creek	SON	4	BDP, JP, LBI	
Black-necked Stilt	12/20/09	Delta Pond	SON	12	BDP, BiL	
✓ Lesser Yellowlegs	12/22-23/09	Ellis Creek Facility	SON	3-5	RLe, BDP	
✓ Lesser Yellowlegs	1/5/10	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	BDP, DHo	
Western Sandpiper	12/20/09	Delta Pond	SON	6	BDP, BiL	
Dowitcher sp	1/13/10	Ellis Creek Facility	SON	75	BDy	
Forster's Tern	15/10	Ellis Creek Facility	SON	1	BDP, DHo	
Pigeon Guillemot	12/24/09	off Bodega Head	SON	2	BDP	
✓ Marbled Murrelet	1/3/10	off Bodega Head	SON	3	BDP, DHo, AW, DN	
✓ Rhinoceros Auklet	1/31/10	off Bodega Head	SON	1	BDP, DHo, AW, DN	
Western Screech-Owl	12/22/09	Sebastopol yard	SON	1	TH	
White-throated Swift	12/31/09-1/15/10	Ellis Creek Facility	SON	1-3	ALa, PBC, RAR	
Selasphorus sp	1/3/10	Diekman's Bodega Bay	SON	1	BD, HK	
Yellow-shafted Flicker	1/14/10	Bodega Head	SON	1	TH	
✓ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Dec-1/5/10	SSU campus	SON	1	mob, BOI	
✓ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1/3/10	Sonoma Golf Course	SON	1	Duy Nguyen fide TR	
✓ Red-naped Sapsucker	1/3/10	Salmon Creek Rd	SON	1	JB, BBu	
✓ Eastern Phoebe	1/8/10	Sonoma Baylands Trail	SON	1	KAc	
Tree Swallow	12/20/09	Delta Pond	SON	80	BDP, BiL	
Tree Swallow	12/25/09-1/15/10	Ellis Creek Project	SON	10-60	BDP, JP, PBC, mob	

Continued page 6

✓ Tree Swallow	1/1/10	Lake Hennessey	NAP	15	BDP
✓ Violet-green Swallow	12/20/09	Delta Pond	SON	1	BDP, BL
✓ Violet-green Swallow	12/25/09-1/15/10	Ellis Creek Project	SON	2-45	BDP, JP, PBC, mob
Violet-green Swallow	1/1/10	Lake Hennessey	NAP	6	BDP
Pygmy Nuthatch	1/1/10	E Bonness Rd	SON	1	DShw
✓ Rock Wren	1/1/10	Tolay Ranch	SON	1	RAR
House Wren	12/23/09	Ellis Creek Facility	SON	1	BDP
Golden -crowned Kinglet	12/23/09	Ellis Creek Facility	SON	1f	BDP
✓ Golden-crowned Kinglet	1/15/10	Ellis Creek Facility	SON	2	PBC
✓ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	12/23/09-1/3/10	Bodega Head	SON	1	RLe, BDP, BiL
Blue-gray Gantacatcher	1/1/10	Lake Hennessey	NAP	1	BDP
✓ Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher	1/2/10	Pinnacle Gulch	SON	2	DF
Wrentit	12/24/09	Campbell Cove	SON	1	BDP
Wrentit	1/3/10	Doran Pond	SON	2	RAR
Orange-crowned Warbler	1/2-3/10	Diekman's Bodega Bay	SON	1	BD,HK mob
Orange-crowned Warbler	1/15/10	SSU campus	SON	1	BD
✓ Orange-crowned Warbler	12/23/09-1/15/10	Ellis Creek Facility	SON	1	BDP, RAR
✓ Yellow Warbler	1/2-3/10	Diekman's Bodega Bay	SON	1	BD, AW, mob
Townsend's Warbler	12/20/09	Santa Rosa CBC area	SON	23	mob high #
Townsend'sxHermit Warbler	1/1/10	E Bonness Rd	SON	1	DShw
Clay-colored Sparrow	12/24-25/09	Milton Rd so Napa	NAP	1	RAR, BDP, JP
Fox Sparrow	1/12-14/10	SSU campus	SON	1	AKI, AW
✓ Swamp Sparrow	Dec/Jan	Ellis Creek Facility	SON	1-2	mob continuing
✓ Swamp Sparrow	12/19-20/09	Spring Lake Reg Park	SON	1	BSp, RAR, DF mob
✓ Swamp Sparrow	12/20/09	Santa Rosa creek	SON	1	BDP
✓ Yellow-headed Blackbird	1/3/10	Sonoma Mt Rd	SON	1-2 (m,f)	mob, BrB

**Observers:** Ken Ackerman, Len Blumin, Ellen Blustein, Janet Bosshard, Brian Bullick, Betty Burrige, Peter B Colasanti, Bill Doyle, Bob Dyer, Dea Freid, Terry Haag, David Hofmann, Don Kirker, Andy Kleinhesselink, Helen Kochenderfer, Rick LeBaudour, Bill Lenarz, Eric Lichtwardt, Stan Moore, Ian Morrison, Dan Nelson, Becky Olsen, BD "Mike" Parmeter, John Parmeter, Ruth A Rudesill, Tom Rusert, Doug Shaw, Bob Speckels, Alan Wight, and Ken Wilson



**KITE TALES**

**979 Hogwarts Circle**

**Petaluma CA 94954**

**Feb. 2010**



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