



Kite Tales

Volume 45 Number 7

March 2010

General Meeting Thursday, March 11, 7:00 pm

Birds of Borneo

Photographer and adventurer Matthew Matthiessen returns to RROS to present his encounters with the magnificent birds of Borneo.

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.

How about 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.)

Wanted (Needed) Editor for Kite Tales: Computer and minimal computer skills required, no experience necessary, training and assistance provided, begin in late August with Sept. issue. Contact Carol Brant 823-2806 for information, explanations and encouragement.

There's an active family of Barn Owls at www.starranch.org/blog/?page . Check it out!

Coming Attractions

Field Trip March 13th to 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

General Meeting April 8th – Diane Humple of Sonoma State University and PRBO Conservation Science will present “Genetic Structures and Demographic Impacts of Oil Spills in Western and Clark’s Grebes”

Field Trip Sunday, April 11th – to Pepperwood

PT. Reyes Birding Festival April 23-25 See page 3 for details.

Field Trip Last Weekend August – Owen’s Valley: We are planning a 4 day trip to the eastern Sierra around the end of August. We need an idea of the number of people who are interested. Please call or e-mail Ellen Blustein 789-0970 or evireo@email.com.

Field Trip Report to the Klamath Basin February 12-15, 2010

Fourteen hardy folks participated in this long weekend winter trek to the Klamath Basin. Most birded on the way north stopping by various refuges (six of us went through Sacramento NWR.)

Saturday, we had fairly good weather for driving through Lower Klamath NWR, Tulalake NWR and part of Lava Beds NM ending the day with over 50,000+ geese and swans flying over head. Highlights: A Harlan's Hawk at Lower Klamath and a Goshawk delighted most observers at the Refuge Headquarters. Canyon Wren put on a show at Lava Beds.

Sunday, the weather was nasty cold rain and mountain birding in Oregon was curtailed. Highlight: a beautiful pair of Barrow's Goldeneyes was a perfect sight for Valentine's Day.

Monday, we were greeted with real tule fog from Tulalake, but we got above it in Lava Beds where the birding was slow until rewarded with a flock of Cassin's Finches and a Northern Pygmy-Owl sitting in the open sunshine for all to enjoy! Over 70 Bald Eagles and 16 Rough-legged Hawks were enjoyed by all. Special thanks to Ellen Blustein for arranging the motel and dinners.

Participants: Ellen Blustein, Peter Colasanti, Joni Gardner, Darlene Hecomovich, Don Howard, Rick LeBaudour, Richard Merriss, Len and Charlotte Nelson, Mike Parmeter, Ruth Rudesill, Chris Traub, Corinne Williams, and Jon Winter.

Birds Observed: 95 Species

Gr. White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Ross's Goods (incl. blue phase), Cackling
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Goose, Canada Goose, Tundra Swan, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Eurasian Wigeon (10+) Mallard, Cinnamon Teal, Green-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Barrow's Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, Ring-necked Pheasant, California Quail, Am White Pelican. American Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Black-cr. Night-Heron, Bald Eagle (70+) Northern Harrier, Northern Goshawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk (many dark ones and Harlan's) Ferruginous Hawk (2), Red-shouldered Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk (16) Golden Eagle, American Kestrel, American Coot, rail sp., Sandhill Crane, Killdeer, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, Herring Gull, Rock Pigeon, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Nor Pygmy-Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Steller's Jay, W. Scrub-Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Common Raven, Mountain Chickadee, Oak Titmouse, Juniper Titmouse, Bushtit, Pygmy Nuthatch, White-br. Nuthatch, Red-br. Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Canyon Wren, Bewick's Wren, Marsh Wren, Golden-cr. Kinglet, Loggerhead Shrike, Townsend's Solitaire, American Robin, Eur. Starling, American Pipit, Vesper Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Golden-cr. Sparrow, White-cr, Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Tricolored Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, Cassin's Finch, House Finch, Red Crossbill, Lesser Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

PS Jon Winter and Chris Traub went back to Ft Klamath dump area the next day in good weather and got two Great Gray Owls to answer them, but did not see them. So they are still there!

Oak or Juniper Titmouse?

by Ruth Rudesill

During the President's Day field trip to the Klamath Basin, our group encountered several titmouse (or is it titmice?) at the Lava Beds NM campground. There was discussion and mixed opinions about which species they were.

After doing some research, I found out something very interesting. There has been research on the titmouse species located there because that area is the zone of overlap for both. Titmouse observed west of Mt Dome in Siskiyou County are Oak and those east of Clear Lake NWR/Modoc County are Juniper. But in between, at Lava Beds, both species occur.

Juniper are little larger, more blue gray, with a slightly longer, thinner bill. Oak are brown gray (the color of a Weimaraner dog) with slightly stouter bill.

Apparently, the birds can hybridize and can pick up each others songs in that area. Birds of both colors were observed in the campground during our brief visit.

The Point Reyes Birding and Nature Festival will be held in western Marin and Sonoma Counties April 23-26. It will feature more than 50 walks, presentations, and classes on birding, butterflies, wildflowers, and other nature subjects.

On line registration takes place at www.pointreyesbirdingfestival.org. The festival Continued on page 4

includes several free events. Walks and presentations will be led by such well known and knowledgeable naturalists and birders as Rich Stallcup, Jules Evens, Lisa Hug, David Wimpfheimer, Steve Howell, Sarah Allen, Keith Hansen, Allen Fish, Ron LeValley, and David Herlocker.

The Festival includes an on-line auction with such exciting items as birding trips to Peru, Ecuador, and South Africa; bed and breakfasts stays in West Marin; high quality binoculars, and many other birding and related items.

A very affordable boat trip to Cordell Bank to see pelagic birds and marine mammals will take place April 26 (weather permitting).

The Point Reyes area has one of the highest bird species counts in North America, and the Festival is timed to take advantage of spring migration (when birds are in their brightest plumage), as well as local breeding and nesting. Part of the Festival will be a four part series of walks emphasizing learning bird songs. A special CD "Birding by Ear at Point Reyes" is available as part of the Festival, and can be purchased from the website.

Walks will take place in coastal wetlands, forests, marshes, grasslands, along ridgetops, chaparral, and coastal dunes. Each of these habitats has its own special set of birds. Late April is a great time to enjoy coastal wildflowers, and several experts will lead walks to see these flowers, and their related butterflies. Friday evening will feature a program by PRBO Conservation Science on life at the Farallon Islands, and the Saturday evening banquet includes an illustrated talk about the Natural History of Point Reyes and its birds by Jules Evens, author of *The Natural History of the Point Reyes Peninsula* and *California Birdlife*.

THANKS – To Peter Colasanti for a generous donation.

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 2009-2010 Board of Directors

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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.

*****OBSERVATIONS Jan. - Feb. 2010 Ruth Rudesill*****

Bird Species	Date	Location	Co.	#	Observers	Notes
Gr White-fronted Goose	1/18/10	Ellis Creek Facility	SON	48	AW	flying south
Gr. White-fronted Goose	1/23/10	Bodega Farm Pond	SON	6	RAR, BSp	
Gr. White-fronted Goose	1/30/10	near Two Rock	SON	flock	RAR, BSp, DK	
Snow Goose	1/19/10	Two Rock area	SON	1	RS	
Ross's Goose	1/19-28/10	Salmon Creek	SON	1	RS, PH	
Cackling Goose	1/30-31/10	Ellis Creek Facility	SON	2	BSp, DK, RAR, AW	
Canada Goose	2/7/10	Doran Park	SON	1	DF	partial leucistic
Tundra Swan	cont 1/18/10	Ellis Creek Facility	SON	1 imm	AW	
Tundra Swan	1/30/10	near Valley Ford	SON	5	BSp, DK, RAR	4ad, 1imm
Eurasian Wigeon	1/18/10	Ellis Creek Facility	SON	1 m	AW	
Eurasian Wigeon	1/26/10	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	RJ	
Eurasian Wigeon	2/10/10	Tolay Lake Park	SON	1	PC, AL, EP, GC	
Blue-winged Teal	1/18/10	Ellis Creek Facility	SON	1	AW	
Black Scoter	1/30/10	Bodega Bay	SON	1m	DK, BSp, RAR	
Barrow's Goldeneye	1/7/10	Putah Creek bridge	SOL	2m	BDP, DHo	
Barrow's Goldeneye	1/19/10	Bodega Harbor	SON	1f	RS	
Barrow's Goldeneye	1/28-2/6/10	Spring Lake Reg Park	SON	1f	RAR, DK, BSp, mob	
Barrow's Goldeneye	2/7/10	Lake Solano	SOL	1m	RAR	
Hooded Merganser	1/7/10	Putah Creek	SOL	25	BDP, DHo	10m/15f
Hooded Merganser	1/26/10	High School Rd	SON	10	BD	
Common Merganset	1/7/10	Lake Solano	SOL	25	BDP	
Common Merganser	1/30/10	Lake Ralphine	SON	38	RAR, BSp, DK	
Red-necked Grebe	1/19-23/10	Bodega Channel	SON	1-3	RS, RAR, BSp	
Pelagic Cormorant	1/23-31/10	Bodega Head	SON	1	RLeb, RAR mob	partial leucistic
American Bittern	1/8/10	Hudemann Slough	SON	1	BDP, MBe	
Bald Eagle	1/30/10	Bodega Harbor	SON	1	RAR, BSp, DK	hunting coots
Bald Eagle	1/30/10	Laguna area	SON	3	CS	
Bald Eagle	2/1/10	Tomales Bay	MAR	1	A&GW	
Swainson's Hawk	1/24/10	Buchli Station Rd	NAP	1	RAR	
Ferruginous Hawk	1/8/10	Hudemann Slough	SON	1	BDP, MBe	
Ferruginous Hawk	1/30/10	Willow Creek Rd	SON	1	DK, BSp, RAR	
Ferruginous Hawk	2/10/10	Tolay Lake Park	SON	1	PC, AL, EP, GC	
Rough-legged Hawk	2/10/10	Tolay Lake Park	SON	1	PC, AL, EP, GC	
Golden Eagle	1/8/10	Hudemann Slough	SON	1	BDP, MBe	
Merlin	123/10	Doran Reg Park	SON	1	RLeb	
Prairie Falcon	2/7/10	Rush Ranch	SON	1	RAR	
Pacific Golden-Plover	1/30-31/10	Shollenberger Park	SON	2	RAR, BSp, DK, AW	
Snowy Plover	1/31/10	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	AW	
Western Sandpiper	1/30-31/10	Shollenberger Park	SON	800+	RAR, BSp, DK, AW	
Rock Sandpiper	1/19/10	Bodega Harbor jetty	SON	1	RS	
Slaty-backed Gull	2/13/10	mouth Russian River	SON	2imm	TE	
Photos reveal these may be hybrids and not this species						
Glaucous Gull	1/23/10	Bodega Harbor	SON	1ad	RAR, BSp	
Short-eared Owl	2/7/10	Buchli Station Rd	NAP	2	D&DH	
Selasphorus sp.	2/10/10	Tolay Lake Park	SON	sev	PC, AL, EP, GC	
Rufous Hummingbird	1/26/10	Joy Road	SON	1m	MH	
Allen's Hummingbird	1/23/10	McGregor Ln Sebastopol	SON	1m	WP	
Allen's Hummingbird	2/1/10	SSU Campus	SON	1	AK	
Lewis's Woodpecker	1/7/10	Knoxville Rd	NAP	1	BDP, DHo	
Lewis's Woodpecker	2/7/10	Putah Creek	YOL	1	RAR	
Loggerhead Shrike	1/8/10	Hudemann Slough	SON	1	BDP, MBe	
Loggerhead Shrike	2/10/10	Tolay Lake Park	SON	1pr	PC,AL, EP, GC	
Horned Lark	1/8/10	Hudemann Slough	SON	sev	BDP, MBe	
Tree Swallow	1/23/10	Ellis Creek facility	SON	sev	AW	
Violet-green Swallow	1/23/10	Ellis Creek facility	SON	sev	AW	

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House Wren	1/7/10	Putah Creek	SOL	1	BDP
American Dipper	1/7/10	bridge Putah Creek	SOL/YOL	1	BDP, DHo
Varied Thrush	2/10/10	Tolay Lake Park	SON	1	PC,AL, EP, GC
Phainopepla	1/7/10	Lake Solano	SOL	2	BDP, DHo
Phainopepla	1/7/10	Putah Creek	YOL	2	BDP
Orange-crowned Warbler	1/28/10	gulch at Ranch Rd	SON	1	PH
Yellow Warbler	cont 1/23-30/10	Diekman's Bodega Bay	SON	1	JW, mob
Western Tanager	1/30/10	Santa Rosa yard	SON	1	BSp
Swamp Sparrow	cont 1/24/10	Ellis Creek facility	SON	1-2	AW, JW
White-throated Sparrow	cont 1/30/10	Spring Lake/Violetti Rd	SON	1	RAR, BSp, DK

Observers: Murray Berner, Gary Campari, Peter Colasanti, Bill Doyle, Todd Easterlea, Dea Freid, Mike Heffernon, David & Denise Hamilton, Phi Henderson, David Hofmann, Robert Jackson, Don Kirker, Andy Kleinhesselink, Andy Lacasse, Rick LeBaudour, BD "Mike" Parmeter, Wendy Peterson, Elaine Pruett, Ruth A Rudesill, Chris Selvig, Bob Speckels, Rich Stallcup, Al & Glo Wellman, Alan Wight and Jon Winter

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