



# Kite Tales

Volume 46 Number 2

October 2010

**RROS General Meeting  
Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m.**

**“Guyana: Birds and Other Wildlife”  
Ken Wilson (Talon Tours)**

The country of Guyana, formerly known as British Guiana, is located on the northeastern shoulder of the South American continent and is bordered by Venezuela, Brazil, Suriname and the Atlantic Ocean. Guyana has a population of approximately 770,000, 90% of whom live along the developed coastlands; the official language is English and the national sport is Cricket.

Due to its history and location, much of Guyana remains in a pristine natural state that is comprised of coastal waters, mangroves, marshes, savannas and mountains with the remaining 80% in tropical rainforest. Within these habitats there are 225 species of mammals, 880 species of reptiles and amphibians, and 814 species of birds.

Of the 814 species, there are 72 families and 70 species that are endemic to the Guiana Shield, an ancient plateau watershed between the Amazon and Orinoco river basins that is approximately two billion years old. Join us on this exploration through a power point presentation with photos Ken has taken on tours to this largely unbirded country.

**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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**FIELD TRIPS – Autumn 2010*****Saturday, October 9, 2010 Bodega Bay***

Meet at Rail Ponds/Horse Parking at 8 a.m. From the town of Bodega Bay, drive N on Hwy 1. Turn left at East Shore Rd (the Bodega Head turnoff) Turn Rt at stop sign and continue 0.3 miles to unpaved parking lot on the right. Bring Lunch, Layers, Bins, Scopes, Sunscreen, Hats and Field Guides. This is the time for vagrants on the coast. Leader TBA.

Questions, Ellen Blustein [evireo@gmail.com](mailto:evireo@gmail.com) or 623-9404

***Tuesday, October 12, 2010 Bodega Bay***

Meet at Rail Ponds/Horse Parking at 8 a.m. (see driving instructions above) Bring Lunch, Layers, Bins, Scopes, Sunscreen, Hats and Field Guides. This is the time for vagrants on the coast. Leader Ruth Rudesill - 833-6026

***Saturday, November 13, 2010. Vic Fazio Wildlife Area, Davis Sewage Ponds, Woodbridge Road.***

In search of wintering waterfowl, cranes and any reported rarities, like Mountain Plovers. Bring bins, scopes, field guides, food for a long day, sunscreen, hats, H2O, and clothing layers. Be prepared to carpool. Meet 7a.m. at the Petaluma park-n-ride at Lakeville Hwy and Hwy 116. Leader- Richard Merriss Questions; Ellen Blustein 707-623-9404

***Tuesday, November 16, 2010 Capay Valley in Yolo County***

All day field trip to western Yolo County. Meet at 7:15 am at the Park n Ride at the intersection of Hwys 116 and 121 south of Sonoma. (There is a gas station next to here.) We will car pool as much as possible.

For those who live in Napa Valley or points east, please call for a meeting time or place. We should be in Cordelia by 7:45 or so.

The route will be 121 to 12 to 80 to 505 to 16. Capay Valley is along Cache Creek. There are numerous little parks along the creek with restrooms (some outhouses and some real) But there are no places for purchasing food. Bring plenty of snacks, liquids and a lunch. We will end up in Colusa County and come back via Hwy 5 or 505. (Going west through Lake County takes a long time.) Major rain storm will cancel.

Questions, call Ruth in the evening at 707-833-6026 or [ruthier@sonic.net](mailto:ruthier@sonic.net)

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**Breeding Bird Atlas – Observations begin in January for revision**

January 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 we begin a repeat of the surveys done in the past to create the **SONOMA COUNTY BREEDING BIRD ATLAS**. The first two orientations are scheduled for

Wednesday, Nov 10th, 6-8 p.m. at Laguna Wastewater Treatment Plant, 4300 Llano Rd.

Saturday, Nov 13<sup>th</sup>, 3-5 p.m. at Laguna Wastewater Treatment Plant, 4300 Llano Rd.

Folks interested in signing up for the orientation or who have questions can email (preferred) Veronica Bowers at [vlbowers@gmail.com](mailto:vlbowers@gmail.com) or phone 829-2955 for details

Atlas field surveyors are the category that is most in demand, but other volunteer jobs are available. Contact Veronica [vlbowers@gmail.com](mailto:vlbowers@gmail.com) if you can help in any way.

Owens Valley Field Trip Report - August 27-29, 2010 by Lisa Hug

Most of us arrived Friday evening sharing hopeful anticipation of great birding for the next couple of days. Our leader - Mike Prather, showed us a great time (Thank you, Mike)! We spent Saturday morning looking at shorebirds in the wetlands of the Owens Lake Bed and went up into the mountains in the afternoon. We repeated this strategy on Sunday, adding a different wetland property on the Owens Lake Bed, where we saw LeConte's Thrasher and Lesser Nighthawk - highlights for most participants. We had a lovely evening Sunday compiling the bird list, as we ate and drank well (thank you Don). We were all very pleased with this list, as we very seriously argued, bargained, and finally agreed upon what was really seen and not seen. But, as we left the restaurant, a strong gust of wind arrived and yanked the sacred list from Ellen's hand. I chased it into the street and caught it with my foot, but was unable to grab it with my hand, without tearing a muscle or my pants. It was last seen flying down Main Street in Lone Pine. The list below is a reproduction, strongly based in the truth of the original list. Participants were Ellen Blustein, Janet Bosshard, Peter Colasanti, Jim Fritzhand, Don Howard, Lisa Hug, Rick LeBaudour, Richard Merriss, Karen Nagle, Linda Petrulias, Elaine Pruett, Rhio Reigh, David Sexton, Bob Speckels, Shirley Spina, and Michael Stevenson.

Birds seen: Gadwall, American Wigeon, Mallard, Cinnamon Teal, Green-winged Teal, Redhead, Greater Scaup, Ruddy Duck, **Sooty Grouse**, California Quail, Eared Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, White-faced Ibis, Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, **Northern Goshawk**, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon, Virginia Rail, Sora, American Coot, Snowy Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Spotted Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Willet, Lesser Yellowlegs, Whimbrel, Long-billed Curlew, **Stilt Sandpiper**, Marbled Godwit, Western Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, **Baird's Sandpiper**, Long-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Phalarope, Ring-billed Gull, California gull, **Common Tern**, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Eurasian Collared Dove, **Lesser Nighthawk**, Anna's Hummingbird, **Rufous Hummingbird**, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Western Wood-pewee, *Empidonax sp.* Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Western Kingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, Steller's Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, American Crow, Common Raven, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Violet-green Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, **Bank Swallow**, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Mountain Chickadee, Red-breasted nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Bewick's Wren, Marsh Wren, **American Dipper**, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Townsend's Solitaire, American Robin, **LeConte's Thrasher**, European Starling, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Western Tanager, Green-tailed Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Black-headed Grosbeak, Red-winged Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Great-tailed Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, **Cassin's Finch**, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, House Sparrow (106).

*Thanks to Ellen for organizing this great field trip!!*

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**Special Donations to RR0S:** Thanks to those who made donations last month in the memory of Jack Groce -Betty Burrige and Benjamin D. Parmeter, MD. Gratitude also to those who gave additional donations this month: Carol Brant, Donald K. Howard, Jr, Marilyn & Jack Jones, Andy LaCasse, Donald McCarthy, John E. O'Connell, Peter Colasanti, and Phyllis Schmidt.

We welcome **New Members:** David & Nadine Sexton of Fairfax, CA

**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:rhioleigh@juno.com">rhioleigh@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 - Lisa Hug	PO Box 67, Sebastopol 95472	<a href="mailto:lisahug@sonic.net">lisahug@sonic.net</a>	824-1067
Treasurer - Don Howard	979 Hogwarts Circle, Petaluma 94954	<a href="mailto:binkybunji2@comcast.net">binkybunji2@comcast.net</a>	637-0868

#### **Committee Chairs**

Field Trips - Ellen Blustein	102 Marylyn Cir. Petaluma 94954	<a href="mailto:evireo@gmail.com">evireo@gmail.com</a>	623-9404
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 - Glo Wellman	862 Green Way, Santa Rosa CA 95404	<a href="mailto:glo26@sonic.net">glo26@sonic.net</a>	548-8911

**Kite Tales Deadlines:** Submit observations to Ruth Rudesill, all other items to Glo Wellman by the 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration for RROS**

This year RROS will celebrate 50 years of support to the local birding community! **Location needed for event** - We are looking for someone who is willing to host this event at their house. Save the possible date of December 9<sup>th</sup> for this event, and plan to attend. We will share stories and photos of past events and our hopes for the future. *Watch for more details to come.* To help in any way, contact Rhio, 579-3400.

### **AOU Changes to Official NA Bird Check List**

reported by Ruth Rudesill

with special thanks to Rich Stallcup for most of the summary

In August, the American Ornithologists' Union published its 51st Supplement to the Check-List of North American Birds, with some significant changes that are of interest to us locally:

- 1) Black Scoter *Melanitta americanus* is split from the (European) Common Scoter *M. nigra*. (It was first published to be American Scoter but that was corrected.)
- 2) English name of *Puffinus gravis* is now Great Shearwater.
- 3) Whip-poor-will is now split - Eastern Whip-poor-will *Caprimulgus vociferous* and Mexican Whip-poor-will *C. arizonae*.
- 4) Winter Wren or the Wren (Jenny Wren) *Troglodytes troglodytes* is split three ways: Pacific Wren *T. pacificus* (our local one) Winter Wren *T. hiemalis* (eastern US) and the Eurasian Wren remains *T. troglodytes*

There were splits of some Central American Trogons. Many order Herons and Ibis have been moved to *Pelicaniformes*. Tropicbirds have their own order, *Phaethontiformes*. Family: Longspurs and Snow Buntings are in their own family, *Calcariidae*. Some Genus and species names are changed, corrected or taxonomic order changed mainly due to genetic data. Big changes in our sparrows: the "brown" towhees are now genus *Melospiza*. And warblers -Orange-crowned, Tennessee, Virginia's, Lucy's and Nashville Warbler are now genus *Oreothlypis*. There are also new species added to the US list from documented and accepted sightings. For the entire report see: [www.aou.org](http://www.aou.org)

## Fall 2010 Migrants

This seems to be an unusually productive year for finding fall migrants right here in Sonoma County. Shollenberger, Bodega Harbor including Owl Canyon, Santa Rosa Creek west of Willowside Road, and elsewhere. What an opportunity to find rare birds right in our own backyard. Outer Point Reyes has also been a gold mine of 'good' birds. It needs to be said that birders' skills, as well as the number of good birders sharing their sightings are increasing significantly. We are so lucky to have folks like Rich Stallcup and our own Ruth Rudesill, and others willing to share, and to teach us.

~ Betty Burrige

## Observations – September, 2010

by Ruth Rudesill

Bird Species	Date	Location	Co.	#	Observers	Notes
Harlequin Duck	8/20-9-19/10	Fish Docks	MRN	2	RS, mob	
✓ White-winged Scoter	9/6-15/10	Bodega Harbor	SON	1m	AWgh, RS, KP, mob	
Black Scoter	8/20-9/13/10	Drake's Bay	MRN	1f	RS, LHg	
✓ Mountain Quail	8/14/10	Pine Flat Rd	SON	20+	TC, LH	large families
Laysan Albatross	8/11/10	Cordell Bank	MRN	2-3	DLSh, RAR mob	
✓ Least Bittern	late July-Aug	Bloomfield	SON	1-2	LD	visiting
2 <sup>nd</sup> County record - Two birds frequented private ranch ponds with high invertebrate population.						
✓ Bald Eagle	8/25/10	Lake Sonoma	SON	1ad	AWe, GWe	
Red-tailed Hawk	8/5/10	Freezeout Rd	SON	2	LP	very light phase
✓ Swainson's Hawk	8/22/10	Ramal Rd area	SON	2	AWgh	
Merlin	8/17/10	Lewis Rd	SON	1	RRh	
✓ Pacific-Golden Plover	8/17-9/19/10	Shollenberger Park	SON	1-4	SCa, PBC, mob	
✓ Pacific Golden-Plover	9/7/10	Sonoma Baylands	SON	2	RS	
Snowy Plover	8/23/10	Doran Beach	SON	7	RoM	
✓ Black-necked Stilt	9/6/10	Doran mudflats	SON	1	AWgh	
✓ Solitary Sandpiper	9/5-9/10	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	SH, RAR, mob	
✓ Wandering Tattler	8/31/10	rocks near Campbell Cove	SON	2	RoM	
✓ Lesser Yellowlegs	8/9-16/10	Shollenberger Park	SON	2-6	RAR, RS, DRe, mob	
✓ Lesser Yellowlegs	9/12/10	Hwy 37 x Skaggs Island	SON	8	LHg	
✓ Surfbird	9/22/10	Bodega harbor	SON	27	RoM, JM	
✓ Red Knot	8/10/10	Bodega Harbor	SON	1	RoM	
Red Knot	9/6-16/10	Bodega Harbor	SON	6-7	AWgh, RoM, KP, KM mob	
✓ Semipalmated Sandpiper	8/16/10	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	RS	
✓ Semipalmated Sandpiper	8/28-9/5/10	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	DD, BD, HK	
Baird's Sandpiper	8/10/10	Bodega Harbor	SON	3	RoM	
Baird's Sandpiper	8/29/10	Bodega Harb. Bird Walk	SON	1	DMA	
Pectoral Sandpiper	9/4-10/10	Shollenberger Park	SON	1-4	PBC, RoM mob	
Pectoral Sandpiper	9/5/10	Hudemann Slough	SON	6	BD, HK	
✓ Stilt Sandpiper	9/7/10	Sonoma Baylands	SON	1	RS	
✓ Stilt Sandpiper	9/20/10	Doran Reg Park	SON	1	RS	
Wilson's Phalarope	8/9/10	Shollenberger Rd	SON	7	RAR	
Wilson's Phalarope	9/5/10	Hudemann Slough	SON	1	BD, HK	
✓ Red-necked Phalarope	8/23/10	off Bodega Head	SON	200+	SCa	
Red-necked Phalarope	9/5/10	Shollenberger Park	SON	6	BD, HK	
Bonaparte's Gull	8/10-9/16/10	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	SCa, RAR mob	
Elegant Tern	8/23-31/10	Bodega Harbor	SON	4	SCa, RoM	
✓ Elegant Tern	9/15/10	Bodega Harbor	SON	28	KP	
Long-tailed Jaeger	8/11/10	Bodega Cyn, Cordell Bank	SON/MRN	300+	DLSh, mob	
✓ Ancient Murrelet	9/15/10	off Bodega Head	SON	1	PP	
Tufted Puffin	8/11/10	Bodega Canyon	SON	1	DLSh, mob	
N Pygmy-Owl	9/9/10	Sugar Loaf State Park	SON	3	RRoS	
Ruby-thr Hummingbird	8/10-11/10	Bolinas Gallery	MRN	1f	KH, mob	
✓ Vaux's Swift	9/8/10	Spring Lake Reg Park	SON	45	Survey	
✓ Vaux's Swift	9/15/10	Rio Lindo Academy	SON	8000	KP	
✓ Vaux's Swift	9/14/10	Healdsburg Elem School	SON	300+	EH	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	9/12/10	Occidental	SON	1	RoM	

**Kite Tales**

**October 2010**

✓ Willow Flycatcher	8/24-9/8/10	Spring Lake Reg Park	SON	2	BD, Survey
✓ Willow Flycatcher	8/31/10	Owl Canyon	SON	1	RoM
✓ Willow Flycatcher	9/5/10	Hudemann Wetlands	SON	1	HK, BD
✓ Willow Flycatcher	9/17/10	Delta Pond area	SON	1	SC
Red-breasted Nuthatch	8/18/10	nw Petaluma	SON	1	BOI
✓ Bay-breasted Warbler	9/14/10	Tolay Creek Ranch	SON	1	PBC, RAR 2 <sup>nd</sup> County Record
✓ Nashville Warbler	9/8/10	Spring Lake Reg Park	SON	1	Survey
Yellow Warbler	9/8/10	Spring Lake Reg Park	SON	30	Survey
Blackpoll Warbler	9/5/10	Marine Ent Trees Bodega Harbor	SON	1	DN
✓ Blackpoll Warbler	9/20/10	Owl Canyon	SON	1	SC
✓ BlackandWhite Warbler	8/30/10	Lynch Creek Petaluma	SON	1	AWgh
✓ BlackandWhite Warbler	9/8-15/10	Owl Canyon	SON	1-2	RS, BD,DF, LHg. mob
✓ MacGillivray's Warbler	9/1-15/10	Owl Canyon	SON	1	DF, KP, mob
Western Tanager	9/14/10	Tolay Creek Ranch	SON	40	Survey
✓ Fox Sparrow	9/17/10	Owl Canyon	SON	1	DF
✓ White-throated Sparrow	9/5/10	Campbell Cove	SON	1	DF
✓ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	8/22/10	Kenwood	SON	1m	RAR imm

Observers: Scott Carey, Tom Cashman, Peter B Colasanti, David Desante, Bill Doyle, Lorri Duckworth, Dea Freid, Linda Hammer, Keith Hanson, Emily Heaton, Scott Hoppe, Lisa Hug, Helen Kockenderfer, Julie Marlowe, Roger Marlowe, Dan Maxwell, Kathy Mugele, Dan Nelson, Becky Olsen, Kathryn Parker, Linda Petrulias, Peter Pyle, Don Reinberg, Rhio Reigh, Ruth A Rudesill, Debi L Shearwater, Rich Stallcup, Al Wellman, Glo Wellman, Alan Wight

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