



# Kite Tales

Volume 46 Number 4

December 2010

**50<sup>th</sup> RROS Anniversary Party**  
**December 9, 2010 6-9 PM**  
**Star Restaurant**  
**Guest Speaker: Peter Levesque**

This year, RROS celebrates 50 years of support to the local birding community! We are pleased that Peter Levesque will be our guest speaker for this event. There will be opportunities to share stories and view archival photos of past events from various members, as we also look ahead with our hopes for the future.

Please make your reservations with Don Howard who is collecting the \$20 per person. You have a choice of salmon, steak or vegetarian pasta dishes. Please get your reservations to Don by Dec 5<sup>th</sup>, or call Rhio (484-6446) so we can have a final count of those who plan to attend.

**Help with Decorating** – Rhio and Annette will be at the Restaurant at 2 pm to decorate for this event. Those interested in helping, contact Rhio at 484-6446.

**Instructions for getting to the restaurant:** Star Restaurant, 8501 Gravenstein Hwy, Cotati, west of Hwy 101, at exit for Hwy 116 West.

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

Folks interested in attending the January orientation or signing up for a block should contact Veronica Bowers at [vlbowers@gmail.com](mailto:vlbowers@gmail.com) or phone 829-2955. Atlas field surveyors are the category that is most in demand, but other volunteer jobs are available.

**FIELD TRIPS - January, 2011**

**Las Gallinas Sewage Ponds, January 8, 2010** - This popular Marin birding spot is just south of Petaluma. We are likely to see a variety of raptors, dabbling and diving ducks, shorebirds and land birds in field and trees. Plan to walk. Bring optics, layers of clothes, water, snack and lunch, field guides, hats and sunscreen. Meet at the Petaluma Hwy 116 & Lakeville Park'n'Ride for carpooling at 8 a.m. Trip begins at 8:30 a.m. at Las Gallinas. Heavy rain cancels. Questions: Ellen Blustein 707-623-9404 Leaders: Len Blumin and Don Reinberg

**Save the dates for 2011 field trips;** February 12, Lisa Hug, Leader; March 12, Lisa Hug, Leader; April 9 and May 14. June trip to Kern, details to follow.

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**FIELD TRIP REPORTS**

**Point Reyes Outer Peninsula, September 25, 2010, Leader Peter Colasanti** - This prescheduled vagrant trip was fueled by hope, but dependant on luck, which eluded us, and meteorological conditions, which were lovely but not conducive to avian vagrancy. However, wandering from Whitehouse Pool to the lighthouse, investigating Fish Docks, Nunes, Mendoza and the RCA Receiving Station - 68 species were observed. Better birds included a Merlin at Drake's Beach, 3 Peregrine Falcons at the lighthouse, 3 Great Horned and one Barn Owl, pairs of Pacific-slope Flycatchers and Red-breasted Nuthatches. There was a Warbling Vireo at Chimney Rock plus Yellow and Yellow-rumped Warblers, and a few swarms of Tricolored Blackbirds at Mendoza. **Participants:** Janet Bosshard, Jim Castle, Fenando Dizon, Grace Harris, Don Kirker, Carolyn and John Longstreth, Gerry Pacis, Craig Roth and Corinne Williams

**Vic Fazio Wildlife Area - Nov. 13, 2010** - This field trip was accompanied by very nice weather, good birds and 87 species overall. There were no outstanding rarities, but we did have an American Bittern at Vic Fazio and two Burrowing Owls along Flannery Rd. in Solano County. Along Woodbridge Road, there were roughly 2,000 Sandhill Cranes and close to 700 Cackling Geese of the Aleutian variety. **Participants** were: Rick LeBaudour, Richard Merriss, Grace Harris, Margret Fleming, Melody Cary, Peter Colasanti, Gerry Pacis, Gary Haag & Terry Haag.

**Tuesday Outing to Capay Valley and Colusa NWR - Nov 16, 2010 Reported by Ruth Rudesill** Glorious fall weather dominated this outing to the far reaches of Yolo County and later for sunset in Colusa County. North of Winters in the farmland looking for the Cassin's Kingbird, and were finally rewarded with scope views. Other good birds here included Red-breasted Sapsucker, Say's Phoebe, and Loggerhead Shrike. We traveled up Capay Valley stopping along Cache Creek and drove up a canyon into the mountains where we lunched. We ended the day viewing thousands of waterfowl at the Colusa NWR. Highlights: a cooperative Rock Wren, Prairie Falcon, Peregrine Falcon, several Golden Eagles, Virginia Rail, Eurasian Wigeon, "blue" Snow Goose and a bathing Red-shouldered Hawk! **Participants:** Janet Bosshard, Peter Colasanti, Dea Freid, Don Howard, Rob O'Donnell, Don Reinberg, Craig Roth, Ruth Rudesill, David Sexton and Michael Stevenson. 92 species observed.

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**Local Christmas Bird Counts**

\*\* Santa Rosa CBC - Sunday, December 19. Contact Ruth Rudesill to participate.

\*\* Western Sonoma County CBC, Sunday, January 2, 2011, 7 am to 4:30 pm

To sign up, go to the Madrone Audubon Website: <http://audubon.sonoma.net>

Or call Veronica Bowers at 829-2955. A catered post-count dinner follows.

**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	604 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	2424 MelBrook Way, Santa Rosa 95404	<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>.

**Big Thanks** to Don Howard who purchased a brand new Epson power point projector and donated it to RROS. It is an excellent projector that can be used for programs created on either PC or Mac. It can even be used with just a memory stick and no laptop. This power point projector will be extremely useful to our club. We thank Don for his thoughtful and generous gift..

**Special Donations to RROS:** Thanks to those who made donations last month – Ted Eliot, Robert P. O'Donnell and Anne O'Donnell.

We welcome **New Members:** Robert P. O'Donnell and Anne U. O'Donnell of Santa Rosa.

**Observations**

reported by Ruth Rudesill

Bird Species	Date	Location	Co.	#	Observers	Notes
Many reports of large flocks of Greater White-fronted Geese flying overhead in late October and early November.						
Brant	11/21/10	Bodega Harbor	SON	1300+	RoM, PBC, RAR	
Snow Goose	11/8/10	Roblar Rd area	SON	2-6	EBR, SC	
Snow Goose	11/10/10	over Sonoma	SON	150	SSt	
Snow Goose	11/11/10	Occidental	SON	21	MHf	
Cackling Goose	11/8-16/10	Bodega Head	SON	2	DeH, SC	
Cackling Goose	10/27/10	Shollenberger Park	SON	180+	PBC	60 Aleutians
Ring-necked Duck	11/10/10	Spring Lake Park	SON	2	Madrone Audubon	
White-winged Scoter	11/16/10	off Bodega Head	SON	8	SC	flyby
Long-tailed Duck	11/16/10	Bodega Harbor	SON	1	SC	
Hooded Merganser	11/17/10	Tolay Ranch	SON	3f	RAR, EP	
Red-throated Loon	11/10/10	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	RS	
Eared Grebe	11/10/10	Spring Lake Park	OSN	3	Madrone Audubon	
Northern Fulmar	10/18/10	off bodega Head	SON	2	SC	
Northern Fulmar	11/12/10	Bodega Harbor	SON	1	fide LHg	
Northern Goshawk	11/17/10	Tolay Ranch	SON	1 imm	RAR	
Northern Goshawk	11/21/10	Westside Park Bodega Harbor	SON	1	RMe	
Ferruginous Hawk	11/14/10	Jenner Headlands	SON	6	LB	inc one dark morph
Merlin	11/10/10	Spring Lake Park	SON	1	Madrone Audubon, RAR	
Peregrine Falcon	11/5/10	Ellis Creek/Shollenberger	SON	1-2	RAR, BD	
Prairie Falcon	10/26/10	Tolay Creek Ranch	SON	1	ALa, RAR, EP	
American Golden-Plover	10/20-11/10/10	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	RS, mob	
Pacific Golden-Plover	10/20-11/10/10	Shollenberger Park	SON	4	RS, mob	
Greater Yellowlegs	11/12/10	Third St Santa Rosa	SON	33	CT	high numbers
Red Knot	10/8-11/16/10	Bodega Harbor	SON	2-6	SC, KMu, DeH, SC	
Pectoral Sandpiper	10/25/10	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	LB, DR	
Red Phalarope	11/16/10	off Bodega Head	SON	50	SC	
Bonaparte's Gull	11/16/10	Bodega Harbor	SON	8	SC	
Thayer's Gull	10/21-11/2/10	Shollenberger Park	SON	5	SC, AWgh	first cycle

Forster's Tern	10/23/10	Bodega Harbor	OSN	1	DF
Marbled Murrelet	10//25-11/16/10	off Bodega Head	SON	1	SC
Rhinoceros Auklet	11/16/10	mouth Bodega Harbor Channel	SON	1	SC
Burrowing Owl	10/11/10	Jenner Headlands	SON	1	RDl
Tropical Kingbird	10/21/10	Hwy 1 near Jenner	SON	1	LHg
Tropical Kingbird	11/19/10	Westshore Pk Bodega Harbor	SON	1	MH
Cassin's Kingbird	11/16/10	north of Winters	YOLO	1	RRos, mob continuing
Clark's Nutcracker	10/7/10	Sarkasian Ln Petaluma	SON	1	VB was dead
Tree Swallow	10/26/10	Laguna wetlands	SON	5	SC
Violet-green Swallow	10/26/10	Laguna wetlands	SON	150+	SC
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	11/10/10	Spring Lake Park	SON	23	Madrone Audubon
Mountain Bluebird	10/26/10	Tolay Creek Ranch	SON	1f	RAR, ALA, EP
Lapland Longspur	10/9-11/10	Jenner Headlands	SON	1-5	RDl
Palm Warbler	10/10-11/10	Sonoma Coast St Park	SON	1	RDl western form
Clay-colored Sparrow	10/12/10	Jenner Headlands	SON	1	RDl
Vesper Sparrow	10/8/10	Jenner Headlands	SON	1	RDl
Sage Sparrow	11/5/10	Rayhouse Rd	YOLO	3	PBC
White-throated Sparrow	10/26/10	Arroyo Sierra Dr	SON	1	CT
White-throated Sparrow	11/18/10	Sebastopol	SON	1	SC tan stripe
White-throated Sparrow	11/10/10	Occidental yard	SON	1	MHf
White-thrx Golden Cr Sp	11/10/10	Spring Lake Park	SON	1	RAR
Dark-eyed Junco	10/30/10	Tolay Lake Reg Park	SON	1	LHg slate-colored
Western Tanager	10/26/10	Tolay Creek Ranch	SON	1	ALA, RAR, EP
Western Tanager	10/27-11/13/10	Sebastopol	SON	1-2	SC, LHg
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	11/6/10	Drake's Monument	SON	1m	RLeb
Rusty Blackbird	11/12/10	Doran Pond	SON	1f	DHf 1st County Record
Evening Grosbeak	10/11/10	Duncan's Mills	SON	10	RDl

Observers: Len Blumin, Veronica Bowers, Ed Brady, Larry Broderick, Scott Carey, Peter B Colasanti, Ryan DiGaudio, Bill Doyle, Dea Freid, Deyea Harper, Mike Heffernon, David Hofmann, Lisa Hug, Andy LaCasse, Rick LeBaudour, Roger Marlowe, Richard Merriss, Kathleen Mugele, Don Reinberg, Ruth A Rudesill, Rich Stallcup, Sandra Stauffer, Colin Talcroft, and Alan Wight

**KITE TALES**  
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