



Kite Tales

Volume 46 Number 7

March 2011

RROS General Meeting
Thursday, March 10th, 2011 7- 9 PM

"Burrowing Owls"
Presenter: Scott Artis

Scott Artis, the Founding Director of the Burrowing Owl Conservation Network, will discuss the decline in Burrowing Owl numbers and the serious threats that they face. He will describe actions being taken to stabilize the population. And he will discuss conservation projects here in Sonoma County involving habitat restoration and artificial burrows. An important goal is to have Burrowing Owls breeding in Sonoma County again.

RROS strongly supports the work of the Burrowing Owl Conservation Network. At the February meeting, members voted to donate \$300 to the Burrowing Owl Conservation Network to further its work here in Sonoma County.

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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Dinner Before the meeting: Join some of us at 5:30 p.m. at the Star Restaurant, 8501 Gravenstein Hwy, Cotati (west of Hwy 101, at exit for Hwy 116 West).

We welcome New Members –
Brendan and Patricia Brown from Santa Rosa.

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2011 FIELD TRIPSNapa Sonoma Marshes – Saturday, March 12, 2011

This is an all day field trip designed to explore the varied habitats of the marshlands that border San Pablo Bay in Napa and Sonoma Counties. The first half of the field trip will take place in Napa County. The latter half of the day will be spent in Sonoma County. We will begin our exploration by touring the **SOSCOL WATER RECYCLING FACILITY** on Soscol Ferry Road in Napa. A Plant employee will meet us and travel with us as we bird the ponds. After investigating the water recycling facility, we will travel down to American Canyon Wetlands, located at the corner of Eucalyptus Drive and Wetlands Edge Road. There are expansive tidal marshes here.

After lunch, we will travel the backroads of the region – mostly in Sonoma County. We'll explore Milton, Cuttings Wharf, Duhig, Las Amigas, Buchli Station, and Ramal Roads, checking out all ponds and "good-looking habitat" that we come across. We will be sure to incorporate a nice afternoon hike in the Hudeman Slough Area of the Huichica Creek Unit of the Marshes. The pinnacle of the outing will be a dusk wait at Huichica Creek for the appearance of owls hunting over the agricultural fields. Possibilities include Short-eared, Burrowing, Barn, and Great-horned.

Meet at the Park and Ride in Petaluma (Lakeville St.(Hwy. 116)/Hwy. 101) at 7am, or the corner of 8th Street and Highway 12 near Schellville at 7:30am. Bring enough food for a very full day and plenty of water. Dress appropriately (layers). Some folding chairs would make the lunch break more comfortable. Trip leader(s): Robin Leong will lead the morning portion of the trip in Napa Co. Peter Colasanti will lead the afternoon into evening portion of the trip in Sonoma County. Heavy rain cancels.

Ida Clayton Road - Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Meet at the intersection Hwy 128 and Ida Clayton Rd at 7:45 a.m. We will bird Ida Clayton Rd; end up in Lake County at the top and head back via Butts Canyon Rd to Pope Valley in Napa Co. Looking for early arrivals/migrants and chaparral species. Bring water, lunch, etc. Note: there are very few or no bathroom facilities. Contact Ruth at 707-833-6026 or ruthier@sonic.net

Bodega Bay - Sunday April 17, 2011

Mid April is a great time to visit Bodega Bay. The wintering shorebirds are dressed up in their breeding plumage and are staging for their long trips to their breeding grounds. We will be searching for all the other birds as well. Bring: bins, scopes, field guides, sunscreen, water, hats, layers of clothes, lunch and snacks. Heavy rain cancels.

Meet at 8 a.m. the horse trailer pullout on the north end of Bodega Bay. Ken Wilson is leader.

June Fieldtrip in the Kernville area –Thursday, June 23 - Monday, June 27, 2011 -

This field trip lead by Bob Barnes is full. Contact Ellen Blustein to get on the waiting list.

**** Save the dates for other future 2011 field trips; April 17, Bodega Bay, leader - Ken Wilson and May 14, Pine Flat Road, leader - Ron Storey.**

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Observations Chairperson needed

After five years of reporting the local observations, Ruth Rudesill will be pursuing other interests. Job includes gathering of local observations on a monthly basis for publication in the **Kite Tales**. This includes gleaning information from North Bay Birds, the Bird Box phone messages (these are printed online weekly on virtualbirder.com) and messages/e-mails from club members. Internet access and e-mail is necessary.

Observations

Compiled by Ruth Rudesill

| Bird Species | Date | Location | Co. | # | Observers | Notes |
|----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|---------|------|------------------------|---------------|
| White-fronted Goose | 1/23/11 | Valley Ford | SON | 3 | LK | |
| Cackling Goose | 1/21-2/5/11 | Bodega Farm pond | SON | 3-15 | CT, DShw, BD | |
| Snow Goose | 1/20/11 | Hwy 101 Petaluma | SON | 2 | DBa | |
| Snow Goose | 1/21-22/11 | Bodega Farm pond | SON | 1 | CT, DShw | |
| Snow Goose | 1/29/11 | Ramal Rd | SON | 11 | HMc | |
| Wood Duck | 2/5/11 | Brush Creek | SON | 4 | CT | |
| Eurasian Wigeon | 1/22-2/20/11 | Doran entrance pond | SON | 1m | DShw, PH, mob | |
| Eurasian Wigeon | 2/15/11 | Hudemann wetlands | SON | 1m | RAR | |
| Tufted Duck | 2/4-7/11 | Stafford Lake | MRN | 1m | RS, mob | |
| King Eider | 1/22-24/11 | Tomales Bay | MRN | 1f | DWi | |
| Harlequin Duck | 1/21-2/10/11 | Bodega Harbor | SON | 1m | mob | |
| Harlequin Duck | 2/19/11 | Bdoega head | SON | 1 | LHg | flying by |
| White-winged Scoter | 1/25-2/10/11 | Bodega Harbor | SON | 1m | RAR | |
| Black Scoter | 1/25/11 | Tomales Bay | MRN | 1m | RAR | |
| Black Scoter | 2/4/11 | Tomales Bay | MRN | 2f | DF | |
| Long-tailed Duck | 1/23-2/20/11 | Bodega Harbor | SON | 1 | LK, LHg mob | |
| Barrow's Goldeneye | 2/4/11 | Port Sonoma | SON | 2 | LHg | |
| Barrow's Goldeneye | 2/8/11 | Spring Lake Reg park | SON | 1f | RAR | |
| White-tailed Kite | 1/21/11 | Hudemann wetlands | SON | 35 | MBe | |
| Bald Eagle | 1/24-2/6/11 | Jenner area | SON | 2 | GIW, AW, DBa, LHg mob | |
| Bald Eagle | 1/27/11 | Henry Rd | NAP | 2 ad | HMc | |
| Bald Eagle | 2/11/11 | Riverfront Park | SON | 1 | GBe | |
| Bald Eagle | 2/20/11 | Laguna area | SON | 1 | GBe | |
| Northern Harrier | 1/21/11 | Hudemann wetlands | SON | 40 | MBe | |
| Ferruginous Hawk | 1/22/11 | near Calmet | SON | 1 | DShw | |
| Ferruginous Hawk | 1/28/11 | near Jenner | SON | 3 | GHu | |
| Golden Eagle | 1/22/11 | near Jenner | SON | 2 | DShw | |
| Merlin | 1/22/11 | Bodega Head | SON | 1 | DShw | |
| Merlin | 1/22/11 | near Salmon Creek | SON | 1 | DShw | |
| Merlin | 2/11/11 | Sonoma Baylands | SON | 1 | RS | Prairie race |
| Peregrine Falcon | 1/26/11 | Bodega Harbor | SON | 1 | RoM | |
| Peregrine Falcon | 1/29/11 | Ramal Rd | SON | 1 | HMc | |
| Black Rail | 2/9/11 | Tubbs Island | SON | 1-2 | GHu | |
| Clapper Rail | 2/4/11 | Corte Madera Marsh | MRN | 2 | LHg | |
| Black-bellied Plover | 2/11/11 | Sonoma Baylands | SON | 400+ | RS | |
| Pacific Golden-plover | 2/11/11 | Sonoma Baylands | SON | 1 | RS | |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | 2/15/11 | Hudemann wetlands | SON | 1 | RAR | |
| Black-legged Kittiwake | 1/24/11 | off Gualala Pt | SON | 2 | DShw | |
| Glaucous Gull | 1/29/11 | off Duncan's Landing | SON | 1 | RS | |
| Glaucous Gull | 2/14/11 | Golden Gate Park | SFO | 1 | PBC | |
| Ancient Murrelet | 1/23-2/19/11 | off Bodega Head | SON | 2-3 | LK, PH, mob | |
| Burrowing Owl | 1/21/11 | eastern Santa Rosa | SON | 1 | DShw | |
| Burrowing Owl | 1/28-2/19/11 | Penny Island | SON | 1 | GHu, LHg | |
| Burrowing Owl | 2/2/11 | Tolay Creek Ranch | SON | 1 | RAR, EP, ALa, PBC, GHu | |
| Long-eared Owl | 2/2/11 | Tolay Creek Ranch | SON | 1 | RAR, PBC, EP | |
| Short-eared Owl | 1/21-2/12/11 | Hudemann wetlands | SON | 2-21 | MBe | |
| Short-eared Owl | 2/4/11 | Buchli Station Rd | NAP | 1 | RAR | |
| Short-eared Owl | 2/11/11 | Estero Americano | SON | 10+ | EH | |
| White-throated Swift | 2/4/11 | top Mt St Helena | SON/NAP | 4 | LHg | |
| Vaux's Swift | 2/17/11 | Vintage Pals Novato | MRN | 8-10 | SCa | |
| Rufous Hummingbird | 2/10/11 | Rail Ponds area | SON | 1m | TMc, mob | |
| Allen's Hummingbird | 1/20/11 | Occidental | SON | 1m | MH | |
| Allen's Hummingbird | 2/10/11 | Rail Ponds area | SON | 1m | TMc, mob | |
| Ash-sided Flycatcher | 2/7/11 | Willowside Trail | SON | 1 | BD | |
| Gray Jay | 1/24/11 | Gualala Reg Park | SON | 3 | DShw | |
| American Dipper | 1/31/11 | Ward Creek Cazadero | SON | 1 | RoM | |
| Townsend's Solitaire | 2/2/11 | Hood Mt Reg Park | SON | 1 | BD | |
| Swainson's Thrush | 2/7/11 | w Sebastopol | SON | 2 | VB | window strike |
| Orange-crowned Warbler | 2/19/11 | Diekmann's Bodega Bay | SON | 1 | PH | |
| Yellow Warbler | 2/19/11 | Diekmann's Bodega bay | SON | 2 | PH | |
| Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sprw | 2/4/11 | Inverness marsh area | MRN | 3 | DF, mob | |
| Fox Sparrow | 2/4/11 | Mt St Helena | SON/NAP | 1-2 | LHg | Thick-billed |
| Swamp Sparrow | 2/8/11 | Spring Lake Reg Park | SON | 1 | RAR | |
| White-throated Sparrow | 2/16/11 | Kenwood feeder | SON | 1 | RAR | tan-stripe |
| Dark-eyed Junco | 1/28/11 | Kenwood feeder | SON | 1 | RAR | pink-sided |
| Dark-eyed Junco | 1/28/11 | Bodega Bay feeder | SON | 1 | NC | pink-sided |
| Dark-eyed Junco | 1/22/11 | Santa Rosa yard | SON | 1 | HK, BD | slate-colored |
| Dark-eyed Junco | 2/8-16/11 | Kenwood feeder | SON | 1m | RAR | Cassiar |

Observers: David Barry, Gordon Beebe, Murray Berner, Veronica Bowers, Scott Carey, Peter B Colasanti, Nancy Conzett, Bill Doyle, Dea Freid, Emily Heaton, Mike Heffernon, Phil Henderson, Gene Hunn, Logan Kahle, Helen Kochenderfer, Andy LaCasse, Roger Marlowe, Tom McCuller, Herb McGrew, Elaine Pruett, Ruth A Rudesill, Doug Shaw, Rich Stallcup, Colin Talcroft, Al & Glo Wellman, David Wimpfheimer

Field Trip Report -Lake County, February 12, 2011

Participants; Darlene Hecomovich, Lisa Hug, Ellen Blustein, Bill Doyle, Helen Kochendorfer, David Hofman, Linda Petruilius, Frank Rathman, Marilyn Rathman, Charlene Burge, Jim Castle, Terry Haig, Gary Haig. 1/2 Participants; Peter Colasanti, Michael Stevenson; MIA participants: Ruth Rudesill, Andy LeCasse, Elaine Pruett, Jim Fritzhand.

The weather was gorgeous and the group left from the River Road substation confident of a great group day in the field. Everyone missed the turn off to Rodman Slough (our first meeting spot) except the Haig's who have a GPS. Several of us had an unplanned tour through the charming towns of Nice and Lucerne. Peter (having a DeLormes) and Michael found us halfway through the day after driving nearly to Winters. Sadly, Ruth, Andy, Elaine and Jim never joined the group but got some great birds.

Darlene Hecomovich, our Lake County guide, led us on a tour of the birding spots of Lake County. Highlights were a Red-naped Sapsucker and Phainopepla found on their CBC.

The ports of call were: Rodman Slough, Esplanade Drive in Lakeport, Highland Springs Road in Kelseyville, for the absent Ferruginous Hawk, Lakeside Community Park in Kelseyville, Diener Drive off Hwy 29, the Lower Lake Farm Pond (Canvasback and Egret), Redbud and Austins Parks in Clearlake, and Borax Lake.

Birds seen; Canada Goose, Mallard, Northern Shoveler, Canvasback, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Ruddy Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, Eared Grebe, Clark's Grebe, Western Grebe, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Turkey Vulture, White-tailed Kite, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Killdeer, Mew Gull, California Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Acorn Woodpecker, Red-naped Sapsucker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Black Phoebe, Western Scrub-Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Tree Swallow, Violet-green Swallow, Bushtit, White-breasted Nuthatch, Bewick's Wren, Marsh Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Western Bluebird, American Robin, Wrentit, California Thrasher, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Phainopepla, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Spotted Towhee, California Towhee, Fox Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

Additional birds seen by 1/2's and MIA's; Pileated Woodpecker, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Say's Phoebe, Bald Eagle

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.

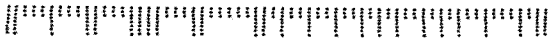
RROS Officers

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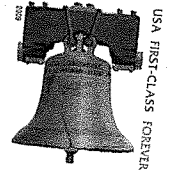
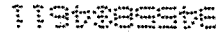
Committee Chairs

Field Trips - Ellen Blustein 2424 MelBrook Way, Santa Rosa 95404 evireo@gmail.com 623-9404
 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 - Glo Wellman 862 Green Way, Santa Rosa CA 95404 glo26@sonic.net 548-8911

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



KITE TALES
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