



# Kite Tales

Volume 46 Number 7

April 2011

**RROS General Meeting**  
**Thursday, April 14th, 2011 7- 9 PM**

**“Wildlife Photography”**  
**Presenter: Tom Reynolds**

Local photographer, Tom Reynolds, will present wildlife photos taken mostly in Sonoma County, as well as some other parts of Northern California. Tom will discuss wildlife photography, equipment and techniques. He will also answer questions about the craft for photographers and would-be photographers in our club.

**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.

**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).

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**SAVE THE DATE**

Our next monthly meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup>, we will have our yearly **Spring Potluck/Picnic and Evening Bird Walk at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park** at 6:00 pm. Watch for more details in the next KiteTales newsletter.

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**We welcome New Members –**  
Tom Reynolds of Santa Rosa  
Tom and Minnie Silman from Sebastopol

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**2011 FIELD TRIPS****Alameda County - Mines Rd and Del Valle in Livermore – Tuesday, April 12th**

There is potential for some very interesting birds including Roadrunner, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Phainopepla, Rufous-crowned Sparrow. This will be an all day excursion. Bring binoculars, scopes, layers of clothing, lunch and beverages. There is an entrance fee to Del Valle Reservoir Park. It was \$6 last year (+ Bridge Toll for the Benicia Bridge). Car pooling is encouraged. Meet at the Park n Ride at Hwy 116 x 121 in south Sonoma at 7am. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Ruthie Rudesill 707-833-6026, evenings [ruthier@sonic.net](mailto: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.

**Field Trip Report - March 12, 2011 – Napa, Solano, and Sonoma counties**

On March 12<sup>th</sup>, fifteen club members met Robin Leong at the Soscol Water Recycling Facility in Napa for the morning component of a Head-of-the-Bay field trip dreamed up by Lisa Hug. After touring the ponds with our liaison Darcy, Robin took us to Devlin Road, American Canyon Wetlands and Slaughterhouse Point in Solano County. We broke for lunch at Kennedy Park, then Peter Colasanti took over to lead us to Napa-Sonoma Marsh Wildlife Area sites Huichica Creek and Hudeman Slough. Ruth Rudesill caught up with the stalwarts who lasted until dusk and were rewarded with distant views of Short-eared Owls.

**95 SPECIES SEEN From 3/12/2011 to 3/12/2011 ~ All Places ~**

Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Clark's Grebe, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Mute Swan, Canada Goose, American Wigeon, Gadwall, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, Northern Shoveler, Canvasback, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, White-tailed Kite, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Virginia Rail, Sora, American Coot, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Black-bellied Plover, Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Long-billed Dowitcher, Marbled Godwit, Long-billed Curlew, Greater Yellowlegs, Willet, Least Sandpiper, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Western Gull, American Herring Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's Tern, Rock Dove, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Mourning Dove, Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl, Short-eared Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Barn Swallow, Tree Swallow, Violet-green Swallow, Cliff Swallow, American Pipit, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Marsh Wren, Northern Mockingbird, Western Bluebird, American Robin, Bushtit, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Oak Titmouse, Western Scrub-Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, European Starling, Loggerhead Shrike, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, American Goldfinch

**ATTENDEES**

Ellen Bluestein, Jim Fritzhand, Joni Gardner, Betty Groce, Don Howard, Frank and Marilyn Rathman, Don Reinberg, Annette and Craig Roth, David Sexton, Michael Stevenson, Corinne Williams

**In Memoriam - Robert Raines (1916 - 2011)**

Robert's daughter Susan Schroeder writes, "Both of my parents were longtime members of RROS. You probably know that my mother, Bertha, passed away in 2006. My father died peacefully on March 17 of pneumonia at the ripe age of 95 years. His eyesight had deteriorated from macular degeneration which for him was a real loss as he couldn't see birds. But until the age of 93, he was still able to take 3 mile hikes in the East Bay Regional Parks with us. He had

## Observations for March

Compiled by Ruth Rudesill

Bird Species	Date	Location	Co.	#	Observers	Notes
Eurasian Wigeon	2/20/11	Doran Entrance pond	SON	1m	LHg	continuing
Eurasian Teal	3/20/11	Hudemann Wetlands	SON	1m	MBe	
Northern Pintail	3/12/11	Shollenberger Park	SON	100+	BDy	
Tufted Duck	2/22-3/14/11	Shollenberger Park	SON	1f	EHu, RS, RAR	
Long-tailed Duck	2/20/11	Bodega harbor	SON	1	LHg	continuing
White-winged Scoter	2/20/11	Bodega Harbor	SON	1m	LHg	continuing
Harlequin Duck	2/19/11	off Bodega Head	SON	1	LHg	
Hooded Merganser	3/4/11	Healdsb Ridge Open Space	SON	1m, 4f	EmH	
Red-necked Grebe	3/10/11	Duncan's Land /Shell Beach	SON	9	CT, RAR, TMc	
Red-throated Loon	3/10/11	off Goat Rock beach	SON	90+	CT, RAR, TMc	
Yellow-billed Loon	2/23/11	Bodega Harbor channel	SON	1	GW	
Storm -petel sp	2/20/11	Bodega harbor	SON	1	DW	
Osprey	2/22-3/10/11	Healdsb Bridge smokestack	SON	1	EmH	nesting
Prairie Falcon	3/3/11	Hudemann Slough area	SON	1	EHu	
Black-legged Kittiwake	2/22/11	Goat Rock Beach	SON	1	FH	
Glaucous Gull	2/22/11	Gaot Rck Beach	SON	2	FH	1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> cycle
Glaucous Gul	2/21/11	Bodega Head	SON	1	FH	2 <sup>nd</sup> cycle
Rufous Hummingbird	3/17/11	Santa Rosa yard	SON	1m	HK	
Rufous Hummingbird	3/19/11	W Sebastopol yard	SON	1m	ScC	
Burrowing Owl	2/20/11	Penny Island	SON	1	LHg	continuing
Short-eared Owl	3/4/11	ranch Estero Americano	SON	20	EHu	
Short-eared Owl	3/8/11	Hudemann wetlands	SON	11	MBe	
Western Tanager	2/23/11	Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery	SON	1	BD	
Violet-green Swallow	2/21/11	High School Rd	SON	115	ScC	
Violet-green Swallow	2/25/11	Place to Play park	SON	18	CT	
Yellow Warbler	3/5/11	Tides parking lot	SON	1	CCo	
Orange-crowned Warbler	2/21/11	Kenwood	SON	1	RAR	singing
Orange-crowned Warbler	3/9/11	Healdsburg Ridge Open Space	SON	several	EmH	singing
Palm Warbler	2/23/11	Ordinance Rd	SON	1	DShw	
Palm Warbler	2/23- 3/8/11	Ordinance Rd (Son Co Airport)	SON	1	ELi, DShw, AWgh mob	
Tricolored Blackbird	2/19/11	Ramal Rd	SON	1m	EHu	
Evening Grosbeak	3/9/11	Willowside Rd	SON	3	ScC	

Observers: Murray Berner, Scott Carey, Chris Conrad, Bob Dyer, Floyd Hayes, Emily Heaton, Lisa Hug, Eugene Hunn, Eric Lici McCuller, Helen Kochenderfer, Ruth A Rudesill, Doug Shaw, Rich Stallcup, Colin Talcroft, Glo Wellman, Alan Wight, and Denis

**RROS Donations**

RROS is a very generous organization. We have made the following donations for environmental causes and also in support of individuals pursuing advanced degrees in environmental sciences:

FY 05/06	Sonoma State University – scholarship
FY 06/07	Sonoma County Open Space District Ballot Measure
FY 07/08	Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO) – Capital Campaign
FY 08/09	SSU – Jack Arnold Memorial Scholarship Fund
FY 09/10	Casa Grande High School – Plant restoration at Shollenberger Park PRBO – terrestrial program – Latin American Interns Memorial Gift in honor of Luke Cole - CRPE
FY 10/11	Burrowing Owl Conservation Network Casa Grande High School – Plant propagation for Shollenberger Park

Total \$3,505 for the six year period.

**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:rhioreigh@juno.com">rhioreigh@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

**Some Good News**

In the midst of the tragedy for life in Japan, here is a heartwarming story about the 60-year old albatross and her latest chick. To see a picture and read more, go to - [http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/42220011/ns/world\\_news-world\\_environment/#](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/42220011/ns/world_news-world_environment/#)

HONOLULU — A 60-something year old albatross ranked as the oldest free-flying bird has thrilled biologists by surviving a tsunami that struck the Pacific island where it nests, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service says. The elderly bird named "Wisdom" and her recently hatched chick were spotted alive about a week after the Sand Island in the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge was struck by a 5-foot tidal wave unleashed by the 9.0 magnitude earthquake that hit March 11 off the coast of Japan.

The tsunami killed an estimated 2,000 adult albatrosses and about 110,000 chicks in that refuge, a U.S. possession about a third of the way between Honolulu and Tokyo in the North Pacific. Those tallies represent a small fraction of the overall population of 1 million Laysan albatross that nest in the refuge, but 20 percent of this year's hatchlings.

Wisdom holds the record as the oldest wild specimen documented during the 90-year history of the U.S. and Canadian bird-banding research program. She was first banded in 1956 when approximately five years of age. Her latest chick, thought to be her 35th, was hatched weeks ago, making her a mother again at the ripe old age of about 60... Biologists estimate that Wisdom has logged about 3 million flying miles in her lifetime, the equivalent of six round trips to the Moon. Laysan albatross breed on the Hawaiian islands of Oahu and Kauai and feed off the western coast of North America. They typically mate for life and spend their first three to five years in constant flight, never touching land, and are believed to even sleep while aloft.

**KITE TALES**  
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