



# Kite Tales

Volume 46 Number 9

May 2011



**Owlets - on Easter at Spring Lake**  
Photo by Tom Reynolds

**RROS General Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 12th, 2011 6 p.m.**

**Spring Potluck/Potluck and**  
**Evening Bird Walk**

**Sugarloaf Ridge State Park,**  
**Picnic Area across from the**  
**Day Use parking lot**

Directions: Take Hwy 12 to Adobe Canyon Road (at the western edge of Kenwood). Drive north up the mountain to the State park entry station. Pay the entry fee or display your pass, and park in the Day Use Lot about 100 yards ahead. Look for RROS members at the picnic area directly across from the lot. Bring food to share, your own plates and utensils, beverages, and binoculars.

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**We welcome New Member -**  
**LizAnne Whitlow of Santa Rosa**

**2011 FIELD TRIPS****Pine Flat Road - Saturday, May 14**

Pine Flat Road has wonderful rare wildflowers, great butterflies and terrific birds. All the spring nesting species should be in. Meet at 8 am at the first bridge on Pine Flat Road. Possible birds include Grasshopper Sparrow, Purple Martin, Mountain Quail, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Bring optics, water, food, sunscreen, hats etc. Be prepared to carpool. Leader: TBA

***Field Trip Reports for April*****Mines Rd and Del Valle Reg Park in Livermore - April 12, 2011**

We had a great day in southern Alameda County! Seven eager participants enjoyed the day despite a cool breeze most of the day. We observed 75 species and a Bobcat crossed the road in front of us! Participants: Betty Groce, Terry & Gary Haag, Karen Nagel, Rob O'Donnell, Glenda Ross, and Ruth Rudesill

Everyone spotted birds for the group! Highlights included: Great Horned Owl on a nest with an owlet, adult Bald Eagle, adult and imm Golden Eagles, Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk nest, a Bank Swallow, great looks at Yellow-billed Magpies, Bullock's Orioles, Common Yellowthroat, Orange-cr Warbler, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, and the courtship flight of three male Phainopeplas with scope looks of a female in the treetop.

*This will be the last Tuesday outing for the year. Thank you to all who participated!*

**Bodega Bay and Harbor - Sunday, April 17, 2011**

This RROS field trip covered Bodega Bay/Harbor and logged just under 90 species. We had great looks at waterfowl (Eared and Horned Grebes, Common and Red-throated Loons) and waders (godwits, Willets, Surfbirds, Short-billed Dowitchers, both species of turnstones) all going into varying degrees of alternate plumage. The first year male Harlequin Duck was still present hanging out near Spud Point. The Eurasian Widgeon was still present in the pond near the entrance to Doran Beach. Two Peregrine Falcons did a fly-by later in the afternoon. There was some degree of migration happening with Caspian Terns, as we saw approximately 50 birds flying north between 8am and 10am. Leader: Ken Wilson, Petaluma

**Monthly General Meetings and Kite Tails**

We always take a break from our general meetings and Kite Tails during the summer months. We know that everyone will be out there birding and vacationing and having a terrific summer.

***Save the Date*** - Our first General Meeting for the new birding year will be September 8<sup>th</sup>. The Kite Tails will be in your mail boxes by about Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> with all of the details and announcing the new officers for the 2011-2012 year.

**Books Available**

One of our RROS members, Linda Petrulias, has Vol I The Oscine Passerines and Vol II The Suboscine Passerines of the Birds of South America series by Robert Ridgley and Guy Tudor. She would like to give them to a fellow birder. She has no plans to purchase the rest of the set and does not use them. They are heavy hardback books, good for reference, but not for travel. IF you are interested, please contact her at Linda Petrulias, [acmwc@comcast.net](mailto:acmwc@comcast.net), 707-632-5532 home or 707-483-2984 cell.

## Observations for April

Compiled by Ruth Rudesill

Bird Species	Date	Location	Co.	#	Observers	Notes
Brant	4/9/11	Bodega Harbor	SON	1000	AWgh	
Eurasian Wigeon	4/17/11	Doran Pond	SON	1	KWi, mob	
Eurasian Wigeon	4/19/11	Rush Creek wetlands	SON	1m	LHg	
Tufted Duck	3/27-4/5/11	Stafford Lake	MRN	1m	RRh, ScC	continuing
Redhead	4/1/11	Viansa Winery	SON	2	BBa	
Harlequin Duck	4/3-17/11	Bodega Harbor	SON	1m	AWgh, KWi mob	continuing
Hooded Merganser	4/5/11	Laguna area	SON	14	ScC	
Sooty Grouse	4/3/11	King Ridge Rd	SON	1	BD, HK	booming
American Bittern	4/3/11	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	JM	calling
Bald Eagle	3/31-4/3/11	Bodega Harbor	SON	1ad-1	TRe,Rudyard	
Bald Eagle	4/17/11	Russian River	SON	1	DBa	
Golden Eagle	4/11-14/11	Hwy 101 Cotati grade	SON	1	AWgh, LBr	
Swainson's Hawk	4/5/11	Skaggs Island Rd	SON	1	PBC, RAR	light phase
Swainson's Hawk	4/17/11	near Viansa Winery	SON	2	TRu	
Peregrine Falcon	4/9-17/11	Bodega Harbor	SON	1-2	AWgh, Kwi,mob	continuing
Peregrine Falcon	4/12/11	on sign in Rohnert Park	SON	1	LBr	
Prairie Falcon	4/7/11	Wilfred xTodd Rd s	SON	1	LBr	chased by White-tailed Kite
Merlin	4/5/11	Tolay Creek Ranch	SON	1	PBC, EP, GC, RAR	richardsonii
Red-necked Grebe	4/9/11	Bodega Harbor Channel	SON	2	AWgh	
Black Rail	4/11/11	Tule Slough Petaluma River	SON	3	PBC	
Clapper Rail	4/11/11	Tule Slough Petaluma River	SON	1	PBC	
Long-billed Curlew	4/9/11	Bodega Harbor	SON	1	AWgh	
Laughing Gull	3/29/11	Civic Center pond	MRN	1	ScC	
Bonaparte's Gull	3/23/11	off Milton Rd	NAP	100+	RAR	
Caspian Tern	4/17/11	Bodega Harbor area	SON	50+	KWi,mob	
Great Horned Owl	2/28-present	Spring Lake Reg Park	SON	1-2 +2	ROD, TRe, mob	nest with 2 owlets
	Hatched 3/29/11	per Dave LaCasse				Nest is next to swimming lagoon
Great Horned Owl	4/4/11	north Santa Rosa yard	SON	1	DShw	
Western Screech-owl	4/12/11	Oakmont yard	SON	2	BGr	female now has a mate
Rufous Hummingbird	4/1/11	Sonoma yard	SON	1m	KMu	
Rufous Hummingbird	4/5/11	Sebastopol yard	SON	1	ScC	
Rufous Hummingbird	4/20/11	Calistoga yard	SON	1	JFr	
Red-breasted Sapsucker	4/2/11	Crane Creek Reg Park	SON	1	CT	
Western Kingbird	4/1/11	Carriger Rd	SON	1	KP, KMU	
Western Kingbird	4/4/11	Graton Rd	SON	2	GB	
Western Kingbird	4/5/11	Tolay Creek Ranch	SON	3	RAR, PBC, EP, GC	
Western Kingbird	4/10/11	Geysers area	SON	1	AWgh	
Pacific-sloped Flycatcher	4/4/11	Occidental yard	SON	1	MHe	
Pacific-sloped Flycatcher	4/10/11	Geysers area	SON	1	AWgh	
Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher	4/7/11	Healdsburg	SON	1	EH	
American Dipper	4/3/11	King Ridge Rd	SON	1	BD, HK	
Warbling Vireo	3/30/11	Channel Dr Santa Rosa	SON	1	BD	
Warbling Vireo	4/10/11	Geysers area	SON	1	AWgh	
Cassin's Vireo	4/3/11	King Ridge Rd	SON	2	BD, HK	
Cassin's Vireo	4/10/11	Geysers area	SON	1	AWgh	
Purple Martin	4/1/11	over Sonoma State	SON	2	AKI	
Yellow Warbler	3/15/11	below Diekman's Bodega Bay	SON	1	PHe	
Wilson's Warbler	3/30/11	Channel Dr	SON	1	BD	
Black-thr Gray Warbler	4/1/11	Sonoma State campus	SON	1	BOI	
Black-thr gray Warbler	4/1/11	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	RAR	
Black-headed Grosbeak	4/1/11	Willowside Rd	SON	1	BD	
Black Headed Grosbeak	4/4/11	Cazadero yard	SON	1	DBe	
Black-headed Grosbeak	4/10/11	Geysers area	SON	1	AWgh	
Chipping Sparrow	4/10/11	Geysers area	SON	1	RAR	
White-throated Sparrow	4/16/11	Sonoma yard	SON	1	KMu	tan stripe
White-throated Sparrow	4/19/11	Occidental yard	SON	1	MHe	
White-throated Sparrow	4/21/11	Joe Rodata Trail	SON	1	LHg	
Purple Finch	4/15/11	Coleman Valley Rd	SON	1m	RoM	orange colored
Evening Grosbeak	4/3/11	Riverfront Park	SON	2	GBe	
Bullock's Oriole	4/5/11	Carriger rd	SON	1	KMu, KP	
Hooded Oriole	3/31/11	Napa yard	NAP	1	DHa	
Hooded Oriole	4/7/11	Lila Lane	SON	1	KMu, KP	
Hooded Oriole	4/10/11	Pine Flat Rd	SON	1	AWgh	
Tricolored Blackbird	3/25/11	Ramal Rd	SON	1	BBa	
Great-tailed Grackle	3/1-3/11	Shollenberger Park	SON	1m	ALa, RAR, mob	
Great-tailed Grackle	4/3/11	Ellis Creek Water Facility	SON	1m	KWi	

Observers: Dave Barry, Bob Battagin, Dennis Beall, Gordon Beebe, Gay Bishop, Larry Broderick, Scott Carey, Peter Colasanti, Gary Compari, Bill Doyle, Jim Fritzhand, Betty Groce, Denise Hamilton, Emily Heaton, Mike Heffernon, Phil Henderson, Lisa Hug, Andy Kleinhesselink, Helen Kochenderfer, Andy LaCasse, Joy Mander, Roger Marlowe, Kathy Mugele, Rob O'Donnell, Becky Olsen, Kathi Province, Elaine Pruett, Rhio Reigh, Tom Reynolds, Tom Rusert, Ruth A Rudesill, Doug Shaw, Colin Talcroft, Alan Wight and Ken Wilson

Due to the storms and power outages last month, some sightings were left off the report. Ruth hopes she included all of them here. Thanks from Ruth for all the reports sent these last 5 years.

David Hofmann has kindly volunteered to do the RROS observations for next year 2011-2012.

**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
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Treasurer - Don Howard	979 Hogwarts Circle, Petaluma 94954	<a href="mailto:binkybunji2@comcast.net">binkybunji2@comcast.net</a>	637-0868

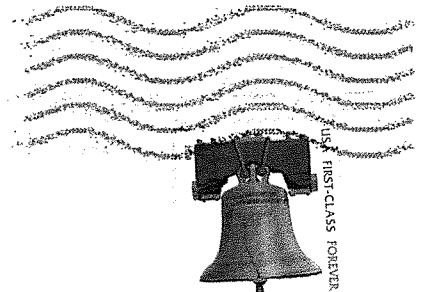
**Committee Chairs**

Field Trips - Ellen Blustein	2424 MelBrook Way, Santa Rosa 95404	<a href="mailto:evired@gmail.com">evired@gmail.com</a>	623-9404
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