



# Kite Tales

Volume 47 Number 2

October 2011



*Juvenile Kite - Ellis Creek - Photo by Bob Dyer*

**RROS General Meeting  
October 13, 2011 at 7 p.m.**

**“Birding Highlights with Rick Le Baudour”**

Rick LeBadour will be showing images from the last seven or eight years. They will include highlights from trips to Texas, Arizona, Colorado and Southern California. Other categories to entice the crowd will be backyard birds, artsy shots, lucky shots, RROS field trips, "where's Waldo," the rare and unusual and other critters. Be sure to bring binoculars as there is likely to be a quiz. We are going to see a lot of great photos.

**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 - November 10<sup>th</sup> RROS General Meeting -**  
Caitlin Robinson-Nilsen, Waterbird Prog. Dir. of the SF Bay Bird Observatory -  
**California Gull Population Growth & Impacts on Nesting Waterbirds in the SF Bay.**

**FIELD TRIPS Planned for 2011- 2012**

***Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> - Bodega Harbor***

Meet at 8:00am at the north end of Bodega Harbor near the rail ponds. There's a parking area on the right. We'll observe water birds, shorebirds and search for migrants and vagrants. Bring binoculars, scopes, field guides, lunch, water, layers and sunscreen. Leader Rick Lebaudour (707)935-3654.

***Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> -Solano County***

This is a winter birding road trip to the Robinson-Flannery roads area of Solano County and the Consumnes River Preserve and Staten Island in Sacramento County. Most of the birding will be by car with a small amount of walking at the Consumnes River Preserve.

In Solano County, we will look for wintering hawks such as Ferruginous, Rough-legged and Prairie Falcon, Burrowing Owl, Mountain Plover Long-billed Curlew and Tri-colored Blackbird.

In Sacramento County we will look for American Bittern, Greater White-fronted, Snow and Ross's Geese, White-faced Ibis, Common Snipe, Yellow-billed Magpie, wintering ducks and Horned Lark.

We will meet at 7:30 a.m. to car pool at the 'Park and Ride' at Highway 101 in Petaluma. Leaders: Ken Wilson and Becky Olson (707)775-2558.

***December*** - no scheduled field trip because of the Christmas Bird Count.

***January, 2012*** - Overnight field Trip to Panoche Valley and Los Banos area; Martin Luther King weekend, January 14-16, 2012. Details to follow.

***February 11, 2012*** - Wintering birds in Solano and Yolo Counties. Details to follow.

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***Field Trip Report: Point Reyes, Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Leader: Ruth Rudesill***

We spent a lovely day with Carol Brant, Karen Nagel, Shirley Spina and Glenda Ross. We observed 60 species on a fairly slow day for migrants. The Lighthouse was blowing fog but we stopped at the Fish Docks, Drake's Beach and lower Mt Vision Rd. Highlights: Willow Flycatcher; Western Tanager; Elephant Seals; Yellow, Black-throated Gray and Chestnut Sided (spotted by Karen) Warblers.

The best event of the day was an encounter between a River Otter and Double-crested Cormorant: The otter was climbing a bush on the shore of the pond at Drake's Beach. A cormorant dragged itself, wet and soggy, from the pond onto a thin beam that was there to hold up some piping. It spread its wings to dry in the breezy sunshine. The otter moved to play with one of the pipes hanging down in the water, pulling the pipe with its webbed feet, at the end of the pipe. Then it twirled around the pipe like a gymnast.

The otter spotted the cormorant, looming above. The otter shimmied up the post supporting the beam (like a cat) and then crawled towards the cormorant, stopping several times to put its head down between its paws. (The cuteness factor here was over the top!) Finally when the otter got too close, the cormorant snapped its snakelike neck and hooked bill at the otter. The otter dropped into the water.

The cormorant moved to the end of the beam to continue drying its wings. The otter crawled up the bank towards us, watched us for awhile; decided the binocular eyes were too much and back flipped sideways into the pond. It was a once in a lifetime wildlife encounter!

Observations: Aug. 15, 2011-Sept. 14, 2011

Compiled by David A. Hofmann

Bird Species	Date	Location	Co.	#	Observer	Note
Brant	8/16-9/13/11	Bodega Harbor	SON	4	BDP, DAH, MOB	
Greater Scaup	8/4-9/12/11	Shollenberger Park	SON	3 m	RS, KeW, MOB	
Lesser Scaup	8/4-9/12/11	Shollenberger Park	SON	1 m	RS, KeW, MOB	
Harlequin Duck	9/3/11	So. Doran Beach	SON	1 m	MiH	
White-winged Scoter	8/31/11	Bodega Harbor	SON	1	ScC	
Common Golden-eye	9/7/11	Russian River mouth	SON	1	JeL	
Hooded Merganser	9/4/11	Pt. Reyes/B Ranch	MRN	1	RoH	
Pacific Loon	8/31/11	Bodega Harbor	SON	1	ScC	
Laysan Albatross	8/28/11	Cordell Banks	SON/MRN	4	RS, MOB	
Wilson's Storm-petrel	8/19-28/11	Cordell Banks	SON/MRN	1	DeS, RS, MOB	
Fork-tled Storm-petrel	8/19-28/11	Cordell Banks	SON/MRN	185-350	DeS, RS, MOB	
American Bittern	8/21/11	Abbott's Lagoon	MRN	2	DanW, MOB	
American Bittern	9/12/11	Las Gallinas Ponds	MRN	1	MiP	
White-faced Ibis	9/4/11	Abbott's Lagoon	MRN	1	BoB	
White-faced Ibis	9/11/11	Shollenberger Park	SON	4	BiD, HeK	
White-faced Ibis	9/14/11	Las Gallinas Ponds	MRN	1	PBC	
Bald Eagle	8/20/11	Occidental Road	SON	2 ad	EdB	
Bald Eagle	8/20/11	Las Gallinas Ponds	MRN	1 ad	SuK, CyC	
Swainson's Hawk	8/28/11	So. Hwy 121	SON	1	DoM	
Prairie Falcon	9/12/11	Las Gallinas Ponds	MRN	1	KaF	
Clapper Rail	8/18/11	Heron's Head Park	SFO	4	DoM, MOB	w/young
Sora	8/25/11	Spring Lake Reg Pk	SON	1	GIW	
American Golden Plover	9/6/11	Abbott's Lagoon	MRN	1	StH, JeM	
Pacific Golden Plover	8/16-9/14/11	Shollenberger Park	SON	4	LeB, EuH, MOB	
Pacific Golden Plover	8/18/11	Rodeo Lagoon	MRN	1	WiL	
Pacific Golden Plover	8/21-9/5/11	Abbott's Lagoon	MRN	1 ad	DanW, MOB	
Pacific Golden Plover	9/5/11	Am. Canyon/Napa R.	SOL	1	JoL	
Com. Ringed Plover	8/19-22/11	Davis Wetlands	SOL	1	ToE, JiH, MOB	
Wandering Tattler	8/26/11	Campbell Cove	SON	1	BDP, DAH	
Wandering Tattler	9/3/11	Am. Canyon/Napa R.	SOL	1	MuB	?county record?
Semipalmated Sandpiper	9/5-7/11	Abbott's Lagoon	MRN	2 im	DavW, JiW, StH, JeM, MOB	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	9/10/11	Mare Island/Hwy 37	SOL	1	JoS, MOB	
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	9/5/11	Spalletta Ranch	MRN	1 im	RiC	
Stilt Sandpiper	9/4/11	Abbott's Lagoon	MRN	1 im	BoB, DavW, JiW, GIT, MOB	
Stilt Sandpiper	9/10/11	Mare Island/Hwy 37	SOL	1	JoS, MOB	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	9/3-5/11	Abbott's Lagoon	MRN	1	ChC, BiD, HeK, RoH, MOB	
Ruff	8/30/11	Abbott's Lagoon	MRN	1	LiH	
South Polar Skua	8/24/11	off Bodega Head	SON	1	ScC	
Long-tailed Jaeger	8/19-28/11	Cordell Banks	SON/MRN	9-25	DeS, RS, MOB	
Laughing Gull	9/4/11	Las Gallinas Ponds	MRN	1 ad	ShD	
Bonaparte's Gull	8/16-9/14/11	Shollenberger Park	SON	1 ad	LeB, DanW, MOB	
Sabine's Gull	8/19/11	Cordell Banks	SON/MRN	39	DeS, MOB	
Elegant Tern	9/13/11	Porto Bodega Boat Basin	SON	110	BDP	
Common Tern	9/1/11	Nicasio Reservoir	MRN	1 im	BoB	
Ancient Murrelet	9/12/11	Limantour Beach	MRN	1	ChS	
Black Swift	9/7/11	Hawk Hill	MRN	3	RiC	
Eastern Kingbird	9/10/11	Pt. Reyes/Mendoza R.	MRN	1	RiL	
Eastern Kingbird	9/10-14/11	Las Gallinas Ponds	MRN	1	BrM, JeF, LaG, LeB, SuK, MOB	
Bank Swallow	9/3/11	King Ridge Road	SON	2	JoL	
Mourning Warbler	9/11-12/11	Pt. Reyes/Fish Docks	MRN	1	ScT, SHa	hatch year
Tennessee Warbler	9/3/11	Pt. Reyes/Fish Docks	MRN	1	ScH, ChC	
Tennessee Warbler	9/7-12/11	Owl Canyon	SON	1	ScC, MiH, DaN, DAH, PBC	
Tennessee Warbler	9/11-12/11	Pt. Reyes/Lighthouse	MRN	1	ScT, SHa	

<u>Bird Species</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Co.</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Observer</u>	<u>Note</u>
Chestnut-sided Warbler	9/9/11	Pt. Reyes/Nunes Ranch	SON	1 f	DF	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	9/11-12/11	Pt. Reyes/Fish Docks	MRN	2	ScT, SHa, ScC, StT	
<b>Magnolia Warbler</b>	9/11/11	Pt. Reyes/New Willows	MRN	1	ScT	
<b>Cape May Warbler</b>	9/11-14/11	Pt. Reyes/Drake's Beach	MRN	1	ScT, ScC, StT	
<b>Prairie Warbler</b>	9/10/11	Owl Canyon	SON	1	HeK, DAH, BiD, RoJ, RoS	
Palm Warbler	9/14/11	Pt. Reyes/Fish Docks	MRN	1	KaF	
Blackpoll Warbler	9/4-11/11	Pt. Reyes/Lighthouse	MRN	1	LiP, RiC, ScT, MOB	
Blackpoll Warbler	9/11-12/11	Pt. Reyes/Fish Docks	MRN	1-2	ScT, SHa	
Blackpoll Warbler	9/11/11	Campbell Cove St. Pk	SON	1	ScC, PBC	
Blackpoll Warbler	9/12/11	BML entrance	SON	1	DaN	
American Redstart	8/24-9/3/11	Owl Canyon	SON	1 m	ToE, DF, RAR, DAH, MOB	
American Redstart	9/7/11	Russian Gulch St. Beach	SON	1 m	JeL	
American Redstart	9/11/11	Pt. Reyes/Fish Docks	MRN	1 f	LoK, SuK, JeA, BonB, ScT	
American Redstart	9/14/11	Pt. Reyes/B Ranch	MRN	1	ScC, StT	
Northern Waterthrush	9/10/11	Abbott's Lagoon	MRN	1	DHe	
<b>Connecticut Warbler</b>	9/12/11	Pt. Reyes/Fish Docks	MRN	1	SHa	
<b>Clay-colored Sparrow</b>	8/31/11	Tolay Lake Reg. Park	SON	1	EuH, AnL, EIP, PBC	
<b>Brewer's Sparrow</b>	9/14/11	Pt. Reyes/C Ranch	SON	1	ScC, StT	
Indigo Bunting	9/13-14/11	Campbell Cove St Pk	SON	1	RAR, PBC	
Yellow-hded Blackbird	9/4/11	Pt. Reyes/A Ranch	MRN	1	RoH	

**Observers:** Jeff Anderson, Bob Battagin, Murray Berner, Len Blumin, Bonnie Bompert, Ed Brady, Scott Carey, Rich Cimino, Cynthia Clark, Peter B. Colasanti, Chris Conard, Sheila Dickie, Bill Doyle, Todd Esterla, Jeff Fairclough, Kathlene Francone, Dea Freid, Laurie Graham, Steve Hampton, Mike Heffernon, David Herlocker, Rob Hewitt, David A. Hofmann, Jim Holmes, Scott Hoppe, Steve Howell, Lisa Hug, Eugene Hunn, Robert Jackson, Logan Kahle, Susan Kelly, Helen Kochenderfer, Andy Lacasse, Jeri Langham, William Legge, John Luther, Bruce Mast, Jeff Miller, Dominik Mosur, Dan Nelson, Michael Park, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Linda Pittman, Elaine Pruett, Ruth Ann Rudesill, Chris Selvig, Debra Shearwater, Rich Stallcup, Ron Storey, Glen Tepke, Scott Terrill, Steven Tucker, Glo Wellman, Jim White, Kerry Wilcox, Dan Williams, David Wimpfheimer.

**Note:** The compiler apologizes and takes full responsibility for omissions or errors regarding this list.

***RROS Ball Caps***

Imagine wearing our great RROS logo (see mailing label) on a gray cap while you are out birding. You can purchase one at the next General meeting for \$15.00 for members and \$18.00 for non-members.

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**Welcome to new members:**

**Claudia Norby, Ronald A Pozzi, and Monica Schwalbenberg-Pena**

***Gratitude to members for recent donations:***

***Richard Bertoli, Don McCarthy and Tom McCuller***

**Field Trip Report – Point Reyes, September 17, 2011 – Leader: Lisa Hug**

We had a very pleasant field trip to Outer Point Reyes on September 17, 2011. We had planned to go straight to the Lighthouse to check out the migrant activity. But, as we arrived in the parking lot, we decided that it was too foggy to be able to see much, so we proceeded to the Fish Docks, where we spent most of the morning. The most exciting bird that we found was an Orchard Oriole at the “new willows” near the elephant seal lookout. We had a nice picnic lunch at the overlook along the road to the Fish Docks. We were hoping that some Sooty Shearwaters would be flying past, but it was too foggy to see any. We saw some distant ones from the fish docks. We then birded Drake’s Beach, the RCA station tress and finally the riparian area at the base of Mount Vision Road where a Chestnut-sided Warbler appeared late in the afternoon.

Birds seen were Surf Scoter, Red-throated Loon, Common Loon, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Sooty Shearwater, Brandt’s Cormorant, Double-crested Cormorant, Pelagic Cormorant, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, Merlin, American Kestrel, Killdeer, Black Oystercatcher, Long-billed Dowitcher, Greater Yellowlegs, Sanderling, Whimbrel, Red-necked Phalarope, Western Gull, California Gull, Heermann’s Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Eurasian Collared Dove, Great Horned Owl, Anna’s Hummingbird, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Say’s Phoebe, Warbling Vireo, Hutton’s Vireo, Common Raven, Barn Swallow, House Wren, Pacific Wren, Bewick’s Wren, European Starling, Common Yellowthroat, Hermit Warbler, Townsend’s Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Tri-colored Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Brewer’s Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Orchard Oriole, House Finch, American Goldfinch,

Field Trip participants were Peter Colasanti, Lisa Hug (leader), Rick LeBaudour, Don McCarthy, Richard Merriss Becky Olsen, Gerry Pacis, Colin Talcroft, and Ken Wilson.

**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 Officerst**

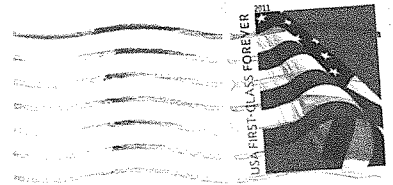
President – Jack Harper	2310 Northwood Drive, SRosa 95404	<a href="mailto:jharpertrustee@sbcglobal.net">jharpertrustee@sbcglobal.net</a>	542-1542
Vice Pres - Terry Haag	1340 Big Plum Dr., Sebastopol 95472	<a href="mailto:teresitahaag@comcast.net">teresitahaag@comcast.net</a>	823-8527
Secretary – Peter B Colasanti	524 East D Street, Petal 94954	<a href="mailto:peter_colasanti@yahoo.com">peter_colasanti@yahoo.com</a>	763-2450
Treasurer - Don Howard	979 Hogwarts Circle, Petaluma 94954	<a href="mailto:binkybunji2@comcast.net">binkybunji2@comcast.net</a>	<del>778-0407</del> 631-0868

**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- David Hofmann	2021 Pioneer Wy #47 Santa Rosa 95403	<a href="mailto:nnamfoh@comcast.net">nnamfoh@comcast.net</a>	546-0325
Christmas Count – Bob Doyle	POB 5424, Santa Rosa, 95402,	<a href="mailto:bill.doyle@yahoo.com">bill.doyle@yahoo.com</a>	483-8773
Kite Tales - Glo Wellman	862 Green Way, Santa Rosa 95404	<a href="mailto:glo26@sonic.net">glo26@sonic.net</a>	548-8911

**Kite Tales Deadlines:** Submit observations to David Hofmann, and all other items to Glo Wellman by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**KITE TALES**  
**979 Hogwarts Circle**  
**Petaluma CA 9954**



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