



# Kite Tales

Volume 47 Number 5

January 2012



*Chipping Sparrow, SR Christmas Count – Photo by Rick Le Baudour*

**RROS General Meeting**  
**January 12, 2012 at 7 p.m.**  
**“Saving Songbirds one Bird at a Time”**  
**Presented by Veronica Bowers**

Ever wonder what a wildlife rehabilitator does? Does wildlife rehabilitation really make a difference for wildlife? If you find an injured or ill bird, shouldn't you just “let nature take its course?” Veronica Bowers of The Songbird Hospital in Sebastopol will answer these questions and more as she discusses her work saving native passerines through rehabilitation and release back to the wild. She'll also share some of her favorite success stories which will demonstrate that, indeed, wildlife rehabilitation really does make a difference not just for an individual, but sometimes for a population.

The Songbird Hospital is located in Sebastopol and cares for over 650 songbirds each year. Most of the birds are brought into care due to an anthropogenic incident – caught by a cat, ran into a window, hit by a car, etc. Veronica will share some helpful tips that we can all use to support our songbirds by reducing negative impacts and providing habitat in our own backyards.

**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)

**Save the date**  
**February 9, 2012 General Meeting**  
**“Scenes of Peru” with Ted Eliot and Rig Currie**

**FIELD TRIPS Planned for 2012*****January 14-15 – Panoche Valley and Los Banos area***

Martin Luther King weekend, we will have a weekend trip to Panoche Valley and Merced Wildlife areas. The trip leaves just south of Hollister at the Paicines Reservoir at 8 a.m. on Saturday, January 14th. We will spend the day birding the Panoche Valley which is exceptional in winter for raptors. Many years there are Mountain Plovers, Chukars, rare sparrows and Long-eared Owls. Note that the Panoche Valley is famous for very few restrooms.

We will spend Saturday night in Los Banos. Rooms are reserved at the Americas Best Value Inn. There are 5 double rooms and 4 king bed rooms reserved under RROS. The cost is about \$59 for a double and \$52 for a king. All rooms are non-smoking. Smoking rooms are available. Call 209-826-5002 for reservations. They will hold these rooms until January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Sunday January 15th at 8 a.m. we will bird the Wild Life Refuges around Los Banos, for wintering water birds and whatever is around, finishing the day on the Sante Fe Grade heading northwest towards Highway 5 and home.

The drive time to Hollister is about 3 hrs. & 15 minutes from Santa Rosa. The drive time from Gustine to Santa Rosa is about 3 hrs. We will finish the day on Sunday around 3 p.m. There is a Best Western in Hollister if you wish to spend Friday night there before meeting at Paicines.

The trip will be loosely led by Ellen Blustein and Lisa Hug. Because the trip is a loop, all carpooling must originate in Sonoma County. To sign up, e-mail or call Ellen [evireo@gmail.com](mailto:evireo@gmail.com) or 707-623-9404. She will need your e-mail and cell phone number. Participants will receive directions and meal plans if they need them.

***Saturday, February 11, 2012 – Wintering Birds of Solano and Yolo Counties, 8am – 4pm***

The open agricultural lands of southern Solano County provide excellent foraging habitat for scores of wintering raptors, while the wetlands of the nearby Yolo Basin Wildlife Area are the winter home for thousands of waterfowl including ducks, geese, swans and many shorebirds. This all-day field trip will visit several local habitats in search of wintering Ferruginous and Rough-legged hawks; Merlin; Prairie Falcon; Burrowing, Barn and Great-horned Owls; Long-billed Curlew as well as the elusive and threatened Mt. Plover. We also expect to see a representative sampling of waterfowl and a variety of shorebirds at the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area, aka the Vic Fazio refuge. Participants meet the leader at 8:00am in Dixon in the southwest corner of the Wal-Mart parking lot located on East Dorset Drive at the Hwy 113 exit off I-80. Bring a lunch and liquids; dress in layers. Leader: Terry Colborn. 916.705.8991, or [tlcgdc@aol.com](mailto:tlcgdc@aol.com) . Heavy rain cancels.

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**Update on Burrowing Owls using habitat/burrows in Sonoma**

Two burrowing owls are now occupying habitat that was restored in burrows built in Sonoma as a result of RROS's grant. Scott will continue to keep everyone updated as they work to transition the county's population from wintering to breeding birds.

Scott Artis, Executive Director  
Burrowing Owl Conservation Network  
P.O. Box 128  
Brentwood, CA 94513  
(925) 240-3399  
<http://BurrowingOwlConservation.org>

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Observations: Nov. 15, 2011 - Dec. 14, 2011

Compiled by David A. Hofmann

Bird Species	Date	Location	Co.	#	Observer	Notes
<b>White-fronted Goose</b>	12/2/11	Marin Civic Center	MRN	1	BoB	
<b>White-fronted Goose</b>	12/6/11	Nicasio Reservoir	MRN	1	DavW	
<b>Ross's Goose</b>	12/9/11	Las Galinas Ponds	MRN	1	KaP	
Tundra Swan	11/25/11	Pt.Reyes/Abbott's Lagoon	MRN	2	MaD	
Tundra Swan	11/28/11	American Cyn/River Trail	NAP	70	DeH, DavH	
Tundra Swan	12/2/11	Lake Hennessey	NAP	22	MuB, BDP	
Tundra Swan	12/2/11	Nicasio Reservoir	MRN	5	JeM	
Eurasian Wigeon	11/15/11	Millerton Point	MRN	1	BoB	
Eurasian Wigeon	12/4/11	Bolinas Lagoon	MRN	5	BoB	
Eurasian Wigeon	12/5-9/11	Nicasio Reservoir	MRN	1	BoB	
<b>Falcatel Teal</b>	12/8-15/11	Colusa Nat'l W.R	COL	1 m	MaW, AnL, EIP, JoW, RAR, mob	
Canvasback	11/16/11	Bodega Farm Pond	SON	4	CoT	
<b>Redhead</b>	11/22/11	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	1	PBC, EuH	
Ring-necked Duck	11/16/11	Bodega Farm Pond	SON	40	CoT	
<b>Tufted Duck</b>	11/19-12/2/11	Lake Hennessey	NAP	1 f	MuB, BDP	
<b>Common Eider</b>	11/25-26/11	Crescent City Harbor	DN	1 f	RiL, BDP, DAH	2 <sup>nd</sup> state rec
Harlequin Duck	11/29/11	Pt.Reyes/Fish Docks	MRN	1	BoB, NoA	
White-winged Scoter	11/17/11	Duncan's Landing	SON	2	LiH	
Black Scoter	11/29/11	Pt.Reyes/Fish Docks	MRN	1	BoB, NoA	
<b>Long-tailed Duck</b>	11/19/11	Bodega Bay harbor	SON	1	CoG	
<b>Long-tailed Duck</b>	12/6/11	Bodega Head St. Pk	SON	1	RAR	
Barrow's Goldeneye	12/3/11	Bodega Bay harbor	SON	1 m	RiL, RiM	
Barrow's Goldeneye	12/4/11	Bolinas Lagoon	MRN	1 m	BoB	
Hooded Merganser	11/17/11	Chileno Valley Road	SON	12	KaM, CyB	
Hooded Merganser	11/22/11	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	2 f	PBC, EuH	
Red-throated Loon	11/22/11	Nicasio Reservoir	MRN	1	BoB	
Pacific Loon	11/19/11	Lake Hennessey	NAP	2	MuB	
Red-necked Grebe	11/17-12/4/11	Bodega Head St. Pk	SON	2	LiH, RS, BDP, DAH, JuD, mob	
<b>Short-tailed Albatross</b>	11/19/11	So.Bodega Canyon	SON/MRN	1	DaS, KeP, StH, MaV, FeS, ViO	
<b>White-faced Ibis</b>	11/28/11	American Cyn/R. Trail	NAP	2	DeH, DaH	
<b>White-faced Ibis</b>	12/8-13/11	Hudeman Slough	SON	2	MuB, KaP	
<b>Bald Eagle</b>	11/24/11	Jenner/Russian River	SON	2 ad	KeW, BeO, HNM	
<b>Bald Eagle</b>	12/4/11	Lake Hennessey	NAP	1 ad	ChD	
<b>Bald Eagle</b>	12/10/11	Hwy 1 X Russian R.	SON	1 ad	DaB	
Ferruginous Hawk	11/15/11	Giacomini Wetlands	MRN	1	BoB	
Ferruginous Hawk	11/17/11	Carmody Road	SON	1	KaM, CyB	
Ferruginous Hawk	11/23/11	Infineon Gate #9	SON	1 juv	EuH	
Ferruginous Hawk	12/5/11	Sonoma State campus	SON	1	BeO	
Ferruginous Hawk	12/6/11	Adobe Rd x Davis Rd	SON	1	KeW	dark morph
Rough-legged Hawk	11/26/11	Tolay Creek Ranch	SON	1	PBC, RAR, EIP, JoM	
Rough-legged Hawk	12/10/11	Hudeman Slough	SON	1	EuH, PBC	
<b>Crested Caracara</b>	11/26/11	Hwy 1 N. of Crescent City	DN	1	RiL, BDP, DAH	
Merlin	11/26/11	Santa Rosa Crk	SON	1 f	SuC	
Merlin	11/26/11	Tolay Creek Ranch	SON	1	PBC, RAR, EIP, JoM	
Merlin	12/1/11	Pt.Reyes/Nunes Ranch	MRN	1	RS	richardsonii race
Merlin	12/10-13/11	Hudeman Slough	SON	1	EuH, PBC, KaP	
Lesser Yellowlegs	11/22/11	Napa/So. of Meadows	NAP	1	BDP, LiH	
Wandering Tattler	12/6/11	Bodega Head St. Pk	SON	1	RAR	
Rock Sandpiper	11/25-26/11	Crescent City	DN	1	RiL, BDP, DAH	
<b>Ruff/Reeve</b>	12/8-13/11	Hudeman Slough	SON	1	MuB, EuH, PBC, KaP	
Wilson's Snipe	11/16/11	Bodega Farm Pond	SON	7	CoT	
Red Phalarope	11/17/11	Bodega Head St. Pk	SON	3	LiH	
Red Phalarope	11/24/11	Bodega Head/Owl Cyn	SON	1	HuH	
Red Phalarope	11/30/11	Bodega Head St. Pk	SON	15	ScC	
Pomarine Jaeger	11/30/11	Bodega Head St. Pk	SON	1	ScC	

<b>Laughing Gull</b>	12/1-6/11	Novato variable loc.	MRN	1	BoB, DavW
<b>Glaucous Gull</b>	11/30/11	Bodega Head St. Pk	SON	1	ScC
<b>Glaucous Gull</b>	12/12-13/11	Shollengerger Park	SON	1 young	RS, KaP
Black-legged Kittiwake	11/27/11	Bodega Head St. Pk	SON	1	PBC
Black-legged Kittiwake	11/30/11	Bodega Head St. Pk	SON	4	ScC
<b>Long-billed Murrelet</b>	12/4/11	Bodega Head St. Pk	SON	1	RS, mob
Marbled Murrelet	12/6/11	Bodega Head St. Pk	SON	1	RAR
Ancient Murrelet	11/15-12/6/11	Bodega Head St. Pk	SON	9-16	LiH, EuH, RAR, BDP, JuD
Ancient Murrelet	11/30-12/4/11	Bodega Head St. Pk	SON	4-20	ScC, RS, mob
Rhinoceros Auklet	11/15-17/11	Bodega Head St. Pk	SON	2	LiH, EuH
Rhinoceros Auklet	11/30-12/6/11	Bodega Head St. Pk	SON	1	ScC, RS, RAR, mob
<b>Burrowing Owl</b>	11/25/11	Pt.Reyes/Abbott's Lagoon	MRN	1	MaD
Short-eared Owl	12/1/11	Pt.Reyes/Bull Point	MRN	2	RS
<b>Red-naped Sapsucker</b>	11/17/11	Sonoma private yard	SON	1	RAR #387 county bird
Red-breasted Sapsucker	11/30/11	Spring Lake Reg. Park	SON	1	RAR
Red-breasted Sapsucker	12/6/11	Pt.Reyes/Bear V. Road	MRN	1	TrM
<b>Eastern Kingbird</b>	12/7-9/11	Pt.Reyes/Nunes Ranch	MRN	1	MaB, OsJ, MeO, KaP
<b>Tropical Kingbird</b>	11/26-12/4/11	Bodega Bay x Hwy 1	SON	1	CoG, RS, mob
Tree Swallow	11/22/11	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	1	PBC, EuH
Violet-green Swallow	11/22/11	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	23	PBC, EuH
Rock Wren	11/26/11	Tolay Creek Ranch	SON	2	PBC, RAR, EIPI, JoM
American Pipit	11/22/11	Tubbs Island	SON	1	RAR japonicus race
<b>Phainopepla</b>	12/2/11	Lake Hennessey	NAP	2 m	MuB, BDP
Tennessee Warbler	12/5/11	Pt.Reyes/Fish Docks	MRN	1	AnE
Orange-crwned Warbler	11/15/11	Millerton Pt.	MRN	1	BoB
<b>Prairie Warbler</b>	11/26-12/7/11	Pt.Reyes/Fish Docks	MRN	1	MaD, BoB, NoA, BrM, mob
<b>Palm Warbler</b>	12/1/11	Pt.Reyes/"B" Ranch	MRN	1	RS
<b>Palm Warbler</b>	12/3/11	Goat Rock Road	SON	1	RiL, RiM
<b>Blck-and-Wht Wrbler</b>	11/24-25/11	Spring Lake Reg. Park	SON	1	HeK, EuH
<b>Blck-and-Wht Wrbler</b>	12/4/11	White House Pool	MRN	1	RS, mob
<b>Clay-colored Sparrow</b>	12/1/11	Pt.Reyes/Nunes Ranch	MRN	1	RS, KaF
Swamp Sparrow	11/19/11	Lake Hennessey	NAP	3	MuB
Swamp Sparrow	12/7/11	Inverness Park	MRN	10	MaB, OsJ, MeO
White-throatd Sparrow	11/19/11	Sea Ranch private yard	SON	3	DiH
White-throatd Sparrow	11/19/11	Corte Madera priv yard	MRN	7	NiW
White-throatd Sparrow	11/20/11	Novato private yard	MRN	3	GaS
White-throatd Sparrow	12/1/11	Pt.Reyes/Nunes Ranch	MRN	1	RS
White-throatd Sparrow	12/3/11	Santa Rosa yard	SON	3	LaB
White-throatd Sparrow	12/9/11	Kenwood yard	SON	1	RAR
<b>Lapland Longspur</b>	11/29-12/10/11	Pt.Reyes/Spalleta Plat.	MRN	10-35	BoB, NoA, JeM, GIT, RyD
<b>Chstnt-cllrd Longspur</b>	12/3/11	Pt.Reyes/Spalleta Plat.	MRN	2	JeM
<b>Dickcissel</b>	11/29-12/7/11	Pt.Reyes/Nunes Ranch	MRN	1	BoB, NoA, RS, BrM, GIT, mob
Tricolored Blackbird	11/17/11	Carmody Road	SON	24	KaM, CyB
<b>Great-tailed Grackle</b>	10/7/11	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	1	LaS, CaJ
Black-headed Grosbeak	11/16/11	W. Sebastopol yard	SON	1	ScC

**Observers:** Noah Arthur, Dave Barry, Bob Battagin, Murray Berner, Cynthia Boyer, Matthew Brady, Larry Broderick, Scott Carey, Suzanne Cogen, Peter B. Colasanti, Ryan DiGaudio, Matthew Dodder, Juanita Doran, Chuck Dresel, Andy Engilis, Kathy Francone, Cory Gregory, David Hamilton, Denise Hamilton, Hugh Harvey, Diane Hichwa, David A. Hofmann, Steve Howell, Lisa Hug, Eugene Hunn, Carolyn Johnson, Oscar Johnson, Helen Kochenderfer, Andy LaCasse, Rick Lebaudour, Joy Mander, Trinkia Marris, Bruce Mast, Richard Merriss, Jeff Miller, H. Norm Moore, Kathleen Mugele, Meagan Oldfather, Becky Olson, Vince Orsini, Kathy Parker, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Ken Petersen, Elaine Pruett, Ruth Ann Rudesill, Ferenc Scheeren, Gary Scheppke, Dan Singer, Richard Stallcup, Lang Stevenson, Colin Talcroft, Glen Tepke, Martjn Verdoes, Magill Weber, Nick Whelan, Ken Wilson, David Wimpfheimer, Jon Winter

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

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*Thanks to Pete Colasanti for a donation to RROS in December.*

*Santa Rosa Christmas Bird Count - December 18, 2011 -*

The Redwood Region Ornithological Society's Santa Rosa CBC was held on Sunday, Dec 12<sup>th</sup>. We had 146 species from twelve teams. Many thanks to all who participated during excellent weather for a change that certainly contributed to the high final numbers. In addition to the Chipping Sparrow (cover) and Nashville Warbler, a Black and White Warbler was found within the circle during count week, at Spring Lake. Especially pleasing to many was the large number of Varied Thrush reported this year with some flocks of 25 or more.

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Greater White-fronted Goose 1	Sora 2	Brown Creeper 27
Snow Goose 6	American Coot 1868	Bewick's Wren 32
Ross's Goose 1	Killdeer 130	House Wren 1
Cackling Goose 21	Black-necked Stilt 4	Pacific Wren 2
Canada Goose 1206	Spotted Sandpiper 2	Marsh Wren 4
Tundra Swan 5	Greater Yellowlegs 12	Golden-crowned Kinglet 30
Wood Duck 12	Western Sandpiper 3	Ruby-crowned Kinglet 411
Gadwall 9	Least Sandpiper 8	Wrentit 6
American Wigeon 36	Dunlin 2	Western Bluebird 319
Mallard 408	Long-billed Dowitcher 3	Hermit Thrush 94
Northern Shoveler 114	Wilson's Snipe 19	American Robin 2981
Northern Pintail 3	Mew Gull 25	Varied Thrush 134
Green-winged Teal 49	Ring-billed Gull 333	Northern Mockingbird 80
Canvasback 11	Western Gull 4	European Starling 202426
Ring-necked Duck 19	California Gull 63	American Pipit 67
Bufflehead 111	Herring Gull 2	Cedar Waxwing 662
Common Goldeneye 4	Thayer's Gull 5	Black-and-white Warbler 1 (count week)
Hooded Merganser 12	Glaucous-winged Gull 9	Orange-crowned Warbler 4
Common Merganser 79	gull sp. 165	Nashville Warbler 1
Ruddy Duck 392	Rock Pigeon 675	Common Yellowthroat 1
Mountain Quail 21	Band-tailed Pigeon 63	Yellow-rumped Warbler 557
California Quail 193	Eurasian Collared-Dove 33	Townsend's Warbler 35
Ring-necked Pheasant 9	Mourning Dove 152	Hermit Warbler 2
Wild Turkey 249	Barn Owl 1	Spotted Towhee 140
Pied-billed Grebe 72	Western Screech-Owl 1	California Towhee 380
Horned Grebe 2	Great Horned Owl 2	Chipping Sparrow 1
Eared Grebe 22	Northern Pygmy-Owl 3	Lark Sparrow 3
Western Grebe 23	Burrowing Owl 1	Savannah Sparrow 64
Clark's Grebe 3	Anna's Hummingbird 131	Fox Sparrow 46
Double-crested Cormorant 161	Belted Kingfisher 21	Song Sparrow 126
American Bittern 1	Acorn Woodpecker 285	Lincoln's Sparrow 27
Great Blue Heron 26	Red-breasted Sapsucker 7	White-throated Sparrow 18
Great Egret 58	Nuttall's Woodpecker 60	White-crowned Sparrow 799
Snowy Egret 46	Downy Woodpecker 20	Golden-crowned Sparrow 425
Cattle Egret 38	Hairy Woodpecker 7	Dark-eyed Junco 934
Green Heron 4	Northern Flicker 173	Red-winged Blackbird 1057
Black-crowned Night-Heron 23	Pileated Woodpecker 8	Western Meadowlark 216
Turkey Vulture 269	Black Phoebe 156	Brewer's Blackbird 2056
Osprey 1	Say's Phoebe 20	Brown-headed Cowbird 3
White-tailed Kite 52	Loggerhead Shrike 2	Purple Finch 34
Bald Eagle 1	Hutton's Vireo 8	House Finch 454
Northern Harrier 7	Steller's Jay 101	Pine Siskin 8
Sharp-shinned Hawk 6	Western Scrub-Jay 371	Lesser Goldfinch 638
Cooper's Hawk 13	American Crow 1362	American Goldfinch 176
Red-shouldered Hawk 78	Common Raven 104	House Sparrow 178
Red-tailed Hawk 96	Tree Swallow 7	
Golden Eagle 2	Chestnut-backed Chickadee 255	
American Kestrel 72	Oak Titmouse 196	
Merlin 4	Bushtit 546	
Peregrine Falcon 7	Red-breasted Nuthatch 1	
Prairie Falcon 1	White-breasted Nuthatch 58	

Bill Doyle, Compiler

**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**

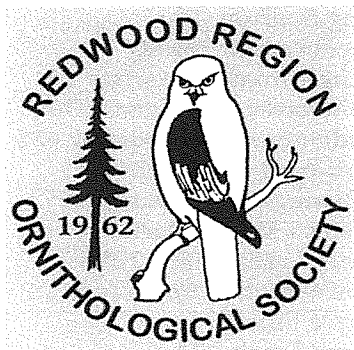
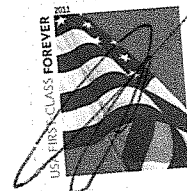
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Treasurer - Don Howard	979 Hogwarts Circle, Petaluma 94954	<a href="mailto:binkybunji2@comcast.net">binkybunji2@comcast.net</a>	637-0868

**Committee Chairs**

Field Trips - Ellen Blustein	2424 MelBrook Way, Santa Rosa 95404	<a href="mailto: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 – Bill 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 by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, 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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