



Kite Tales

Volume 47 Number 6

February 2012

**RROS General Meeting
February 9, 2012 at 7 p.m.**

**“Birds and More in Southern Peru”
Rigdon Currie, Ted Eliot, and John Longstreth**

Southern Peru is a magical place which abounds in human and natural history. RROS members Ted Eliot and Rigdon Currie with six friends hired a Peruvian guide for three weeks last August and September to show them the many wonders of this area. We will see videos of the cultural and natural treasures of the Southern Peruvian coast and close-by Andes, colonial city of Cusco and surrounding country, extraordinary Machu Pichu, and over the eastern Andes into the upper Amazon Basin. They often traveled only by boat, hiked many trails, climbed two canopy towers, were paddled through two incredibly productive oxbow lakes, and sat mesmerized at a parrot lick and a very active and noisy Cock-of-the-Rock lek. 550 species of birds were identified, including five species of macaw in one day. Most of these wonders were captured by still and video camera and edited into a most entertaining and informative program.

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
March 8, 2012 General Meeting
“Sights of Nicaragua” Richard Merriss

FIELD TRIPS Planned for 2012***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. For carpooling from Sonoma County meet at the Hwy 116 park-n-ride on Lakeville Hwy. in Petaluma at 6:30 a.m. Bring a lunch and liquids; dress in layers. Leader: Terry Colborn. 916.705.8991, or tlcgdc@aol.com . Heavy rain cancels.

Tuesday Feb 21, 2012 - Lake County

We'll travel to Clear Lake for winter water birds and maybe check out some mountain areas (Cobb) for wintering land birds. Meet at 7 am at the Park N Ride on River Rd Rd next to the PG&E yard. Exit from Hwy 101 at River Rd / Mark West Springs and go overpass to the west side of freeway. Its on the right side of road, right past the intersection. Bring lunch, layers of clothing, bins, scope. Heavy rain/snow will cancel. Leader: Ruth Rudesill 707-833-6026 cell 707-481-0768 ruthier@sonic.net

Saturday, March 10, 2012 - King Ridge Road

Meet at the bakery on the south side of Hwy 116 in Duncan's Mills at 8 a.m. This is a great spring trip which should have some nice wildflowers. We'll be on the lookout for all land birds. Possible highlights are American Dipper, Mountain Quail and Sooty Grouse. Bring lunch, snacks, optics, sunscreen, layers, hats. We can carpool from Duncan's Mills. Leader TBA. Heavy rain cancels.

Saturday, April 21, 2012 - Mitchell Canyon

Mitchell Canyon is a great spring birding spot on the north flanks of Mt Diablo. Hope for birds include Hammond's Flycatcher, Calliope Hummingbird, Hermit Warbler and Nashville Warbler. The wildflowers and butterflies should be beautiful. Meet 7am Petaluma park'n'ride at Lakeville Hwy and Hwy 101 for carpooling . Or meet 8 am at the Mitchell Canyon Parking Area which is located on Mitchell Canyon Road from Clayton Road northeast of Walnut Creek. Bring binoculars, sunscreen, water, food for lunch, hats. This is a walking field trip, about 3 miles. Leader is Rick LeBaudour, 707-974-0004 or rick@sonoma-customtile.com - Let Rick know if you plan to meet at Mitchell Canyon. Heavy rain cancels.

Saturday, May 12, Pine Flat Road

This is our last official field trip of the season. Pine Flat Road has wonderful rare wildflowers, great butterflies and terrific birds. All the spring nesting species should be in. Meet 8 a.m. at Pine Flat Road past the Jimtown store, where the road narrows, at the bridge. From Hwy 101 take Dry Creek exit to Healdsburg Av to Alexander Valley Road to Pine Flat Road. Bring optics, field guides, water, lunch, sunscreen, hats. Leader is Richard Merriss. Heavy rain cancels.

Photo Submissions

If you have a recent photo of a local bird or a bird of interest for this season, please send a .jpg to your Kite Tales editor, Glo at glo26@sonic.net. We want to have a photo on our first page and did not received one for this month.

Observations: Dec 16, 2011 – Jan 16, 2011

Compiled by David A. Hofmann

Bird Species	Date	Location	Co.	#	Observer	Notes
Grtr Wht-frntd Goose	1/1/12	Hwy 116 x Russian R.	SON	3	MiH, KaM, mob	WSC CBC
Grtr Wht-frntd Goose	1/8/12	Petaluma-Valley Ford Hwy	SON	1	EuH	
Grtr Wht-frntd Goose	12/24/11	Bodega Farm Pond	SON	1	BDP, JoP, JiS, EIS, LaP, NaP	
Snow Goose	1/1/12	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	15	BDP	WSC CBC
Ross's Goose	12/8/11-1/15/12	Robert's Lake	SON	1	CoT, DoS	
Ross's Goose	12/25/11-12/30/11	Hudemann's Slough	SON	3	RAR, BDP, SuK, DaB, mob	
Tundra Swan	12/18/11	Delta Pond x Hall Rd	SON	1	BDP, BiL	Santa Rosa CBC
Wood Duck	1/16/12	Santa Rosa/Matanzas Crk	SON	18	RoS	
Eurasian Wigeon	12/19-29/11	Doran Regional Park	SON	1 m	DeF, PhH, PeW	
Falcated Duck	12/8/11-1/10/12	Colusa NWR	COL	1 m	RiL, RiM, BDP, DAH, AW, mob	
Redhead	12/17-30/11	Hudemann's Slough	SON	14-19	RoJ, LoK, JeA, BonB	
Redhead	12/26/11	Lake Hennessey	NAP	2 f	BDP, JoP, EIS, JiS	
Tufted Duck	12/17/11	Pt.Reyes/Abbott's Lag.	MRN	1	AnK, DoM	
Tufted Duck	12/26/11-1/2/12	Lake Hennessey	NAP	1 f	BDP, JoP, EIS, JiS, SaP	
White-winged Scoter	12/26/11	Pt.Reyes/Fish Docks	MRN	1	DaE	
White-winged Scoter	1/7/12	Bodega Harbor	SON	1 f	StL	
White-winged Scoter	1/8/12	Duncan's Landing	SON	2 m	EuH	
Black Scoter	1/8/12	Bill Kortum Trail	SON	1 m	EuH	
Long-tailed Duck	1/7-8/12	Bodega Harbor	SON	1 f	HeK, BiD, EuH	
Barrow's Goldeneye	12/28/11	Lake Hennessey	NAP	1	RAR	
Barrow's Goldeneye	1/8/12	Bodega Harbor	SON	1 m	EuH	
Red-breastd Merganser	12/31/11	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	DeF	Sonoma Valley CB
Yellow-billed Loon	12/17/11	Walker Crk x Tomales Bay	MRN	1	JoC	
Red-necked Grebe	1/8/12	Bill Kortum Trail	SON	1	EuH	
Red-necked Grebe	1/6-8/12	Bodega Head St. Park	SON	2	BDP, DAH, LuM	
Laysan Albatross	12/5-30/11	Pt. Arena	MEN	1	MeS, mob	"Big Al"
American Bittern	12/28-1/9/11	Spring Lake Reg. Park	SON	1	RAR, CoT, mob	
Cattle Egret	12/29/11	Coast Guard Training Sta.	SON	1	RoJ	
White-faced Ibis	12/17-19/11	Hudemann's Slough	SON	1-2	RoJ, RAR	
Bald Eagle	12/18/11	Delta Pond x Hall Rd	SON	1 ad	BDP, BiL	
Bald Eagle	12/28/11	Lake Hennessey	NAP	2 ad.	RAR	
Bald Eagle	1/1/12	Willow Creek Road	SON	2	KaM, DeH, MiC	WSC CBC
Bald Eagle	1/1/12	Hwy 116 x Russian R.	SON	3-5	MiH, DaW, mob	WSC CBC
Ferruginous Hawk	1/1/12	Hwy 116 x David Ranch	SON	3	MiH, DaW, mob	WSC CBC
Ferruginous Hawk	1/8/12	north-east of Petaluma	SON	1	AW	dark morph
Golden Eagle	12/24/11	end of Salmon Crk Rd	SON	1	BDP, JoP, EIS, JiS, LaP, NaP	
Merlin	12/17/11	Hudemann's Slough	SON	1	RoJ	
Merlin	12/18/11	Santa Rosa Crk	SON	1	BDP, BiL	Santa Rosa CBC
Merlin	12/21/11	Spring Lake Reg. Park	SON	1	ROD	
Merlin	12/28/11	Petaluma	SON	1	DaB	taiga race
Merlin	1/1/12	Bodega Head St. Park	SON	1 m	DAH, RS	WSC CBC
Peregrine Falcon	12/17/11	Penny Island/Russian R.	SON	1 juv.	DaB	
Peregrine Falcon	1/1/12	Campbell Cove St. Pk	SON	1	BDP, RAR, RiM, mob	WSC CBC
Peregrine Falcon	1/1/12	Hwy 116 x Russian R.	SON	1	MiH, DaW, mob	WSC CBC
Prairie Falcon	1/12/12	Nicasio Reservoir	MRN	1	DavW	
Clapper Rail	12/25/11	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	BDP	heard only
Virginia Rail	1/1/12	Willow Creek Road	SON	4	KaM, DeH, MiC	WSC CBC
Virginia Rail	1/1/12	Hwy 116 x Hwy 1	SON	1	MiH, DaW, mob	WSC CBC
Sora	1/1/12	Willow Creek Road	SON	3	KaM, DeH, MiC	WSC CBC
Ruddy Turnstone	12/24/11-1/6/12	Porto Bodega	SON	4-1	BDP, JoP, EIS, JiS, LaP, NaP, DAH	
Surfbird	12/17/11	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	12	LoK, HoB, JeB	
Rock Sandpiper	12/24/11	MacKerricher St. Park	MEN	2	DoT	
Ruff/Reeve	12/17-19/11	Hudemann's Slough	SON	1	RoJ, RAR	
Laughing Gull	12/31/11	Las Gallinas Ponds	MRN	1	DaA	
Iceland Gull	1/8/12	Russian River mouth	SON	1	EuH	"Kumlien's" 3 rd cycle
Glaucous Gull	12/17/11	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	1	LoK, HoB, JeB	
Forster's Tern	12/29/11	Bodega Bay/Porto Bodega	SON	30	PhH, PeW	
Ancient Murrelet	12/24/11-1/7/12	Bodega Head St. Pk	SON	1-6	BDP, JoP, StL	WSC CBC
Rhinoceros Auklet	12/29/11-1/1/12	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	1	PhH, PeW, RAR, RiM	

Barn Owl	1/3/12	Napa-Sonoma Marsh	NAP	2	DeH, DavH	
Western Screech Owl	1/1/12	Salmon Creek Road	SON	1	RAR, RiM	WSC CBC
No. Pygmy Owl	1/1/12	Salmon Creek Road	SON	2	RAR, RiM	WSC CBC
Burrowing Owl	12/17/11	Hwy 1 S.E. of Bodega Bay	SON	1	LoK, HoB, JeB	
Spotted Owl	1/1/12	Salmon Creek Road	SON	2	RAR, RiM	WSC CBC
Long-eared Owl	12/30/11	Kenwood yard	SON	1	RAR	heard only
Short-eared Owl	12/17/11	Tolay Park	SON	1	JoM	
Short-eared Owl	12/25/11-1/10/12	Skagg's Island/Hwy 37	SON/NAP	12	SuK, DoR, ChD, MaR, NoM, mob	
Short-eared Owl	1/3/12	Napa-Sonoma Marsh	NAP	2	DeH, DavH	
No. Saw-whet Owl	1/1/12	Salmon Creek Road	SON	6	RAR, RiM	WSC CBC
Lewis's Woodpecker	1/8-16/12	Ragle Ranch Reg. Pk	SON	1	MaJ, JiD	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	12/29/11-1/5/12	Bolinas Yard	MRN	1	MaA, NoM	
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	12/17/11	Pt. Reyes Station	MRN	1	JoW	
Eastern Phoebe	12/19/11	Pt.Reyes/Muddy Hollow	MRN	1	LuM	
Loggerhead Shrike	12/30/11	Ramal Road	SON	2	DaB	
Tree Swallow	12/22/11	Hudemann's Slough	SON	6	BDP, LaP, NaP	
Tree Swallow	12/31/11	Las Gallinas Ponds	MRN	50	DaA	
Canyon Wren	1/13/12	Mt. St. Helena	SON	1	EuH, NaH	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	12/24/11	front of Owl Canyon	SON	1	BDP, JoP, EIS, JiS, LaP, NaP, DAH	
Townsend's Solitaire	12/26/11	Bohemia Preserve	SON	1	GoB	
Townsend's Solitaire	1/13/12	Mt. St. Helena	SON	1	EuH, NaH, RAR	
Varied Thrush	12/22/11	Spring Lake Reg. Park	SON	14	CoT	
Bohemian Waxwing	12/28/11	Lake Hennessey	NAP	1	RAR	
Phainopepla	12/24/11	Anderson's Marsh	LAK	1	EdV	
Phainopepla	12/31/11	Tolay Ranch Reg. Park	SON	1	ToS	Sonoma Valley CBC
Orange-crwnd Wrblr	12/28/11-1/1/12	Diekman's Store	SON	2-3	DeF, PhH, PeW, mob	WSC CBC
Orange-crwnd Wrblr	12/18/11	Delta Pond x SR Crk	SON	2	BDP, BiL	
Yellow Warbler	12/29/11-1/1/12	Diekman's Store	SON	1	PhH, PeW, mob	WSC CBC
Nashville Warbler	12/18-27/11	Santa Rosa/W. 3 rd St.	SON	1	LiH, mob	
Nashville Warbler	12/30/11-1/1/12	Diekman's Store	SON	2	PhH, RAR, RiM	WSC CBC
Cape May Warbler	12/17/11	Inverness Fire Station	MRN	1	ScC, DavS	
Blck & White Warbler	12/18-27/11	Spring Lake Reg. Park	SON	1 m	RoD	Santa Rosa CBC
Chipping Sparrow	12/18/11	Santa Rosa	SON	1	RiL, RiM	Santa Rosa CBC
Vesper Sparrow	12/31/11	Tolay Creek Ranch	SON	1	IsC	Sonoma Valley CBC
Grasshopper Sparrow	12/31/11	Tolay Ranch Park	SON	1	ToS	Sonoma Valley CBC
Black-thrted Sparrow	12/20/11	Esparto	COL	1	BDP, RAR, LiH, TeE	
White-thrted Sparrow	12/18/11	Windsor	SON	1	DoS	
White-thrted Sparrow	12/18/11	Delta Pond	SON	1	BDP, BiL	Santa Rosa CBC
White-thrted Sparrow	12/18-21/11	Santa Rosa Com. Park	SON	4	CoT	
Swamp Sparrow	12/26/11	Lake Hennessey	NAP	1	BDP, JoP, EIS, JiS	
Harris's Sparrow	12/17/11	Davis yard	SOL	1	BDP, RiL, RiM, DAH	

Observers: Mary Abbott, Jeff Anderson, David Assmann, Dave Barry, Gordon Beebe, Hollis Bewley, Jerry Bewley, Bonnie Bompert, Scott Carey, Isaiah Clark, Josiah Clark, Jim Dempsey, Bill Doyle, Chuck Dresel, Daniel Edelstein, Ted Eliot, Dea Freid, Denise Hamilton, David Hamilton, Mike Heffernon, Phil Henderson, David A. Hofmann, Lisa Hug, Eugene Hunn, Nancy Hunn, Robert Jackson, Marcia Johnson, Logan Kahle, Susan Kelly, Andy Kleinhesselink, Helen Kochenderfer, Rick LeBaudour, Bill Lenarz, Stephan Long, Joy Mander, Richard Merriss, Norm Moore, Dominic Mosur, Luke Musher, Rob O'Donnell, Benjamin D. Parmeter, John Parmeter, Larry Parmeter, Nathan Parmeter, Sally Parmeter, Don Reinberg, Ruth Ann Rudesill, Maggie Rufo, Doug Shaw, Dave Shuford, Mel Smith, Tommy Smith, Robert Speckles, Richard Stallcup, Ellen Strauss, Jim Strauss, Colin Talcroft, Dorothy Tobkin, Ed Vermuelen, Peter White, Alan Wight, Dan Williams, David Wimpfheimer, Jon Winter

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

***We Welcome New Member –
Luanna Helfman from Larkspur, CA.***

Field Trip Report - Panoche Valley in San Benito County

submitted by Peter Colasanti

The MLK weekend trip through Panoche Valley in San Benito County was baseless, leaderless and lovely. The aridity of the season provided a serene background to some really brilliant birds. There were Wood and Ring-necked Ducks and Wigeon at Paicines Reservoir, good looks at flocks of Lark Sparrows, Yellow-billed Magpies and the male Mountain Bluebird Craig Roth found for us.

The crew seemed to enjoy the first day best, a long safari transit east into the virtual desert of west Fresno County. After we'd found our fourth falcon with a Merlin at Panoche Creek, we stopped at Mercy Hot Springs to see the Long-eared Owls that roost in a couple of trees there, at least 19 of them. Luanna found a Greater Roadrunner which we spent some time with. Later, another was found immediately roadside feeding at a road-killed coyote, probably scavenging for insects. Wile E.'s denouement.

Day two actually produced greater numbers of birds, although the high point for many was being surrounded by a great flock of sheep near Los Banos. We birded the perimeter of the State Wildlife Area while en route to San Luis National Wildlife Refuge. The best bird of the trip was one of the last when Ellen found a drake White-winged Scoter on the surface of O'Neill Forebay which flew just as scope hog Peter Colasanti got a look. The bird could not be refound in the time allowed us by our visitor's passes.

In all 103 species were observed:

Species Seen -

Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Clark's Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, White-faced Ibis, Greater White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, White-winged Scoter, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, White-tailed Kite, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, American Kestrel, Merlin, Prairie Falcon, Peregrine Falcon, California Quail, Sandhill Crane, American Coot, Black-necked Stilt, Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Long-billed Dowitcher, Long-billed Curlew, Greater Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, Herring Gull, Rock Dove, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Mourning Dove, Greater Roadrunner, Great Horned Owl, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Long-eared Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Acorn Woodpecker, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Violet-green Swallow, American Pipit, Phainopepla, Rock Wren, Marsh Wren, Northern Mockingbird, California Thrasher, Western Bluebird, Mountain Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, Wrentit, Bushtit, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Loggerhead Shrike, Western Scrub-Jay, Yellow-billed Magpie, American Crow, Common Raven, European Starling, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Spotted Towhee, California Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Tricolored Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch

Participants included: Ellen Blustein, Peter Colasanti, Jim Fritzhand, Terry and Gary Haig, Luanna Helfman Don Howard, Don McCarthy, Geri Pacis, Elaine Pruett,, Annette and Craig Roth.

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 Officerst

President - Jack Harper	2310 Northwood Drive, SRosa 95404	jharpertrustee@sbcglobal.net	542-1542
Vice Pres - Terry Haag	1340 Big Plum Dr., Sebastopol 95472	teresitahaag@comcast.net	823-8527
Secretary - Peter B Colasanti	524 East D Street, Petal 94954	peter_colasanti@yahoo.com	763-2450
Treasurer - Don Howard	979 Hogwarts Circle, Petaluma 94954	binkybunji2@comcast.net	637-0868

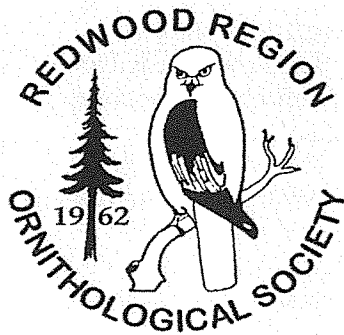
Committee Chairs

Field Trips - Ellen Blustein	2424 MelBrook Way, Santa Rosa 95404	evireo@gmail.com	623-9404
Observations- David Hofmann	2021 Pioneer Wy #47 Santa Rosa 95403	nnamfoh@comcast.net	546-0325
Christmas Count - Bill Doyle	POB 5424, Santa Rosa, 95402,	bill.doyle@yahoo.com	483-8773
Kite Tales - Glo Wellman	862 Green Way, Santa Rosa 95404	glo26@sonic.net	548-8911

Kite Tales Deadlines: Submit observations to David Hofmann by the 15th of each month, and all other items to Glo Wellman by the 20th of the month.

KITE TALES
979 Hogwarts Circle
Petaluma CA 9954

NORTH BAY CALIF
02 FEB 2012 11:17



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