



Kite Tales

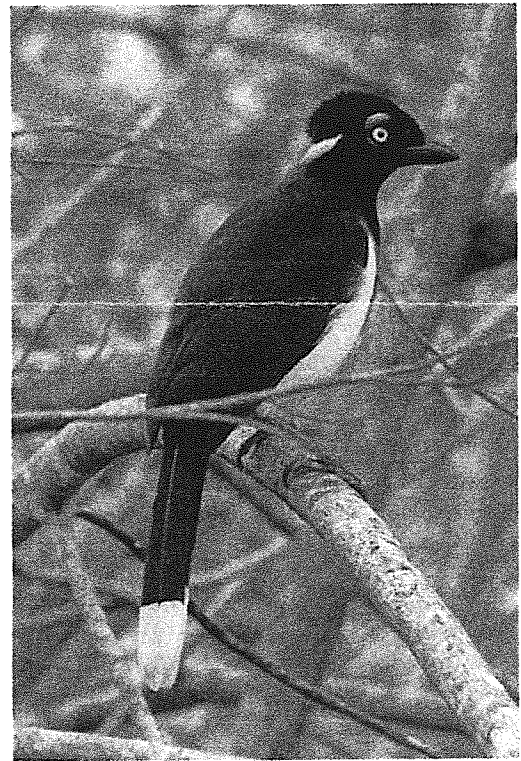
Volume 47 Number 7

March 2012

**RROS General Meeting
March 8, 2012 at 7 p.m.**

**“Birding and Cultural Adventures
South of the Border”
with Richard Merriss**

Richard Merriss drove all the way from Cotati to Lago de Nicaragua and back, passing through Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and Belize on his journey of approximately 9500 miles. Along the way, he saw and photographed wonderful wildlife. He added 60 birds to his already extensive life list. He met many interesting people along the way. Richard will share photographs and stories of his grand adventure.



Tufted Jay in Nicaragua by Richard Merriss

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

**April 12, 2012 General Meeting
“Birding Ecuador and Thailand” with Roger Marlowe**

Big Thanks – to Ellen Blustein!

After four years as our Field Trip Coordinator, Ellen Blustein is stepping down. We thank her for the many wonderful trips she has planned for us. We all share special memories of these adventures.

We are now seeking a volunteer to serve as our Field Trip Coordinator starting in the fall. Ellen has already scheduled field trips through May. And she has offered to help the new Field Trip Coordinator initially. If you are interested, please contact Ellen at 623-9404.

We also welcome suggestions for possible field trips. If you would like to lead a trip or to propose a good site for a trip, please contact our Field Trip Coordinator.

FIELD TRIPS Planned for 2012***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 = Lisa Hug. 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 by the 15th of the month for possible use in our newsletter. This month we are making up for not having one last month, with two wonderful photos!! Thanks Richard Merriss and Leslie Flint. Remember too that these color photos can be seen on our website.



Falcated Duck at Colusa Wildlife Refuge - January, 2012 – by Leslie Flint

Observations: Jan 17, 2011 – Feb 16, 2011

Compiled by David A. Hofmann

Bird Species	Date	Location	Co.	#	Observer	Notes
Grtr Wht-frntd Goose	1/16/12	Las Gallinas Ponds	MRN	1	WiD	
Grtr Wht-frntd Goose	1/25/12	Sebastopol/High School Rd	SON	7	DaN	
Grtr Wht-frntd Goose	1/29-2/3/12	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	1	RoS, DaN	
Grtr Wht-frntd Goose	2/7-16/12	northwest Petaluma	SON	10	EuH, DaB	
Snow Goose	2/7/12	northwest Petaluma	SON	4	EuH	
Ross's Goose	1/16-2/4/12	Las Gallinas Ponds	MRN	1	WiD, BoT, mob	
Ross's Goose	1/18/12	Nicasio Reservoir	MRN	1	BoB	
Eurasian Wigeon	1/16/12	Las Gallinas Ponds	MRN	1 m	WiD	
Eurasian Wigeon	1/17/12	Pt.Reyes/Teal Pond	MRN	1 m	DavW	
Eurasian Wigeon	1/31-2/11/12	Doran Regional Park	SON	1 m	DAH, RoJ, mob	
Eurasian Wigeon	2/3/12	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	1 m	DaN	
Blue-winged Teal	1/24/12	Pt.Reyes/Giacomini Wtlnd	MRN	1 m	BoB	
Blue-winged Teal	1/30/12	Napa Sewage Ponds	NAP	3 m	De&DavH	
Blue-winged Teal	2/10/12	Hudeman Slough	SON	1	BoB, SuK, mob	
Redhead	1/17/12	Pt.Reyes/Abbott's Lag.	MRN	1 m	DavW	
Tufted Duck	1/17-19/12	Pt.Reyes/Abbott's Lag.	MRN	1 m	DavW, LuM	
White-winged Scoter	2/8/12	Bodega Harbor	SON	1	ToR, MAS, mob	
Black Scoter	2/8/12	Bodega Head St. Park	SON	1 f	PBC, MAS, mob	
Black Scoter	2/10/12	Pt.Reyes/Lighthouse	MRN	10	RiS, mob	
Long-tailed Duck	2/8/12	Bodega Head St. Park	SON	2	PBC	
Long-tailed Duck	2/16/12	Campbell Cove St. Pk	SON	1 f	FLH, DoW	
Barrow's Goldeneye	1/17/12	Bodega Harbor	SON	1 f	BDP, DAH	
Hooded Merganser	1/25-29/12	Occidental Rd/Sanford Rd	SON	9-21	DaN, BiD, HeK	
Red-necked Grebe	1/17/12	Pt.Reyes/Abbott's Lag.	MRN	1	DavW	
Red-necked Grebe	2/8/12	Bodega Harbor	SON	2	ToR, MAS, mob	
Short-tailed Shearwtr	1/28/12	Cordell Banks/Bodega Cyn	SON/MRN	5+	EuH, PBC	
American Bittern	1/17/12	Pt.Reyes/Abbott's Lag.	MRN	1	DavW	
Cattle Egret	1/19/12	Ragle Ranch Reg. Park	SON	4	DoS	
Cattle Egret	1/25/12	Occidental Rd/Sanford Rd	SON	30-40	DaN	
White-faced Ibis	1/25-27/12	Occidental Rd/Sanford Rd	SON	1-2 im	DaN, EuH	
Bald Eagle	1/17/12	Inverness	MRN	2 ad	DavW	
Bald Eagle	1/28/12	Dry Creek Road	SON	1 ad	David Wayte	
Ferruginous Hawk	2/5-6/12	Duhig Road	NAP	1	ChD	
Ferruginous Hawk	2/13/12	Skagg's Road	SON	1 ad	AnC	
Merlin	2/1/12	Spring Lake Reg. Park	SON	1 f	ROD	"columbarius"

Prairie Falcon	1/29/12	Occidental Rd/Sanford Rd	SON	1	BiD, HeK	
Prairie Falcon	2/9/12	Nicasio Reservoir	MRN	1	BoB	
Pacific Golden Plover	2/10-13/12	Shollenberger Park	SON	4	DaN, LuM, DoM	
Ruff	2/5-10/12	Hudeman Slough	SON	1	HeK, BoB, SuK, mob	
Wilson's Snipe	1/18/12	S.R./Place-to-Play Pk	SON	2	CoT	
Laughing Gull	1/28-2/12/12	Las Gallinas Ponds	MRN	1	LeB, BoT, mob	
Iceland Gull	2/2-7/12	Sausalito/Fort Baker	MRN/SFR	1	StH, mob	"glaucoides"
Iceland Gull	2/5-6/12	Napa Valley College	NAP	1	MuB	
Slaty-backed Gull	2/7-8/12	Sausalito/Fort Baker	MRN/SFR	1 ad	ToE, DaS, mob	
Slaty-backed Gull	2/7/12	Sausalito/Fort Baker	MRN/SFR	1 juv	ToE, DaS	2 nd year cycle
Slaty-backed Gull	2/9-11/12	Pt Reyes/Drake's Beach	MRN	1	RiS, mob	3 rd year cycle
Glaucous Gull	2/16/12	Goat Rock State Beach	SON	1	FIH, DoW	
Black-legged Kittiwake	2/16/12	Goat Rock State Beach	SON	1	FIH, DoW	
Ancient Murrelet	2/8/12	Bodega Head St. Park	SON	4	PBC, MAS, mob	
Rhinoceros Auklet	1/25/12	Bodega Head St. Park	SON	1	RAR	
Burrowing Owl	2/9/12	Pt.Reyes/Mendoza Ranch	MRN	1	RiS, mob	
Short-eared Owl	1/18-30/12	Las Gallinas Ponds	MRN	2	BiN	
Short-eared Owl	1/21/12	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	RAR	
Common Poorwill	2/16/12	Pt.Reyes/Palomarin Trail	MRN	2	JeM	
Allen's Hummingbird	1/25/12	Sebastopol yard	SON	1 m	WeP	
Lewis's Woodpecker	1/17-2/6/12	Ragle Ranch Reg. Park	SON	1	MaJ, mob	
Yellow-bellied Sapsckr	2/4/12	Tomales Bay State Park	MRN	1 juv	BoA	
Yellow-bellied Sapsckr	2/11/12	Bolinas/375 Overlook	MRN	1	CoR	
Least Flycatcher	1/24-2/6/12	Ragle Ranch Reg. Park	SON	1 ad	DaN, LiH, EuH, mob	
Eastern Phoebe	2/4/12	Las Gallinas Ponds	MRN	1	GeC	
Tropical Kingbird	2/8-9/12	Hwy 1 x Doran Beach Rd	SON	1	ToR, MAS, mob, DenH	
Barn Swallow	1/22-30/12	Las Gallinas Ponds	MRN	15	LoK, JeM, BoT	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	2/8/12	Gaffney Point	SON	1	PBC, MAS, mob	
Tennessee Warbler	2/9-11/12	Diekman's Store	SON	1	EuH, RoJ, DerH	
Nashville Warbler	2/8/12	Gaffney Point	SON	1	PBC, MAS, mob	
Nashville Warbler	2/13/12	Diekman's Store	SON	3	DoM	
Palm Warbler	2/5-12/12	Petal/Cypress Hill Mem. Pk	SON	1	DaN, EuH, DoM, DaB, BeO, mob	
Blk and Wht Warbler	1/20/12	Pt.Reyes/Coast Trail	MRN	1	EBF	
Blk and Wht Warbler	2/9/12	Pt Reyes/White House Pool	MRN	1 m	RiS	
White-throated Sparrow	1/18/12	S.R./Strwbrry Schl Pk	SON	2	CoT	
White-throated Sparrow	1/25-2/4/12	Ragle Ranch Reg. Park	SON	1	DaN, EuH, mob	
White-throated Sparrow	1/31/12	Kenwood yard	SON	1	RAR	
Blk-headed Grosbeak	1/29/12	Diekman's Store	SON	1	CoG	

Observers: Bob Arrigoni, Dave Barry, Bob Battigan, Len Blumin, Anthony Cermak, Peter B. Colasanti, George Chrisman, Bill Doyle, Will Duncan, Chuck Dresel, Emil B. Friend, Cory Gregory, Todd Esterla, Denise & David Hamilton, Steve Hampton, Floyd Hayes, Derick Heins, Denise Herzberg, David A. Hofmann, Lisa Hug, Eugene Hunn, Robert Jackson, Marcia Johnson, Logan Kahle, Susan Kelly, Helen Kochenderfer, Madrone Audubon Society, Jeff Miller, Dominik Mosur, Lukas Musher, Dan Nelson, Bill Noble, Rob O'Donnell, Becky Olsen, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Wendy Peterson, Ruth Ann Rudesill, Tom Reynolds, Cory Ritter, Doug Shaw, Dan Singer, Richard Stallcup, Ron Storey, Colin Talcroft, Bob Toleno, Doug Weidemann, David Wimpfheimer.

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

*Thank you for a donation to RROS -
Andrew LaCasse*

**Field Trip Report - Wintering Birds of Solano and Yolo Counties
February 11, 2012**

On crisp winter morning, trip leader Terry Colborn met the RROS group in Dixon. We headed south toward Jepson Prairie, and some excellent roadside birding. At Cook's Lane, we saw our first pair of **Loggerhead Shrike**; we went on to tally an astonishing 18 shrikes for the day! We also had good views of a beautiful **Ferruginous Hawk**, while a handsome **Prairie Falcon** was teed-up on a nearby pole. In the marsh, Terry alerted us to a **Virginia Rail** as it called from deep within the reeds. Several **Wilson's Snipe** flushed, showing their familiar zig-zag flight pattern. Along Flannery Road we were treated to a stunning **Burrowing Owl** as it sunned itself from a rocky outcropping. After lunch we birded the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area. Some of the highlights included numerous species of waterfowl in beautiful late afternoon sunlight, **Common Gallinule**, a pair of **Eared Grebe**, and a **Great Horned Owl** on its roost. A huge flock of **House Finch**, perhaps 500 strong, appeared as ground cover in a meadow. As the last of the participants drove out of the refuge, a **Peregrine Falcon** zipped across the roadway. Terry stopped the caravan to point out an **American Bittern** that was cryptically hiding in plain view!

Species seen: Greater White Fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Mallard, Cinnamon Teal, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Ring-necked Pheasant, Pied-billed Grebe, Eared Grebe, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, American Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Turkey Vulture, White-tailed Kite, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, American Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon, Virginia Rail, Common Gallinule, American Coot, Killdeer, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Greater Yellowlegs, Long-billed Curlew, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Long-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Snipe, Mew Gull, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, Herring Gull, Rock Pigeon, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Burrowing Owl, White-throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Northern Flicker, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Loggerhead Shrike, Western Scrub-Jay, Yellow-billed Magpie, American Crow, Common Raven, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Marsh Wren, American Robin, European Starling, American Pipit, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Lark Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, American Goldfinch. Total: 87 species.

Participants included: Beth Branthaver, Jim Fritzhand, Rhio Reigh, Don Reinberg, Gary Haag, Terry Haag, Rick LeBaudour, Cathy Blier, Jocelyn Gardner, Wendy Peterson, Bob Speckels, Don Kirker, David Sexton, Cynthia Rathkey, John Rathkey, Annette Roth, Craig Roth, Dolores Butkus, Don McCarthy, Jon Winter, Jim Arth, Amy Arth, Anne Murray.
Terry Colborn: leader

* * * * *

Department of Fish and Game Day Use Access – researched by Don Howard

The State of California has changed its procedures regarding day use fees for its wildlife areas, including: Gray Lodge, Grizzly Island, Los Banos, San Jacinto, Imperial, Elkhorn Slough and Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve. It is no longer possible to purchase a day use pass at the wildlife area. Rather, you must obtain the day use pass through the internet (CA DFG) OR by visiting a DFG facility or a retail agent that sells fishing and hunting licenses. The cost of an annual pass is \$22.68, a one-use day pass \$4.32. It is our understanding that the annual pass covers the calendar year in which it was purchased. RROS may be able to purchase the passes in bulk and have them available to members.

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 Officers

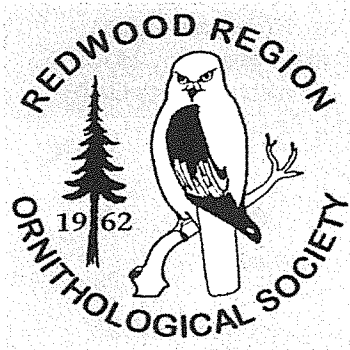
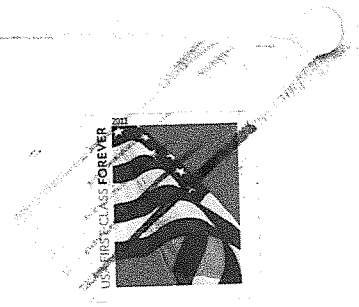
President - Jack Harper	2310 Northwood Drive, SRosa 95404	jharpertrustee@sbcglobal.net	542-1542
Vice Pres - Terry Haag	1340 Big Plum Dr., Sebastopol 95472	teresitahaag@comcast.net	823-8527
Secretary - Peter B Colasanti	524 East D Street, Petal 94954	peter_colasanti@yahoo.com	763-2450
Treasurer - Don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