



Kite Tales

Volume 47 Number 8

April 2012



Palm Warbler by Ron Storey
Cypress Hill Memorial Park
Petaluma

**RROS General Meeting
April 12, 2012 at 7 p.m.**

**“A Tale of Two Continents”
with Roger Marlowe**

RROS member Roger Marlowe will take us to Asia, sharing stories and pictures of his 2011 trip to Thailand. We shall also travel with him to South America as he presents scenes of Ecuadorean landscapes and wildlife from his 2010 trip.

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
May 10, 2012 General Meeting
End of the Year Picnic and Evening Bird Walk
Location TBA

Volunteers needed – Field Trip Coordinator and Kite Tails Editor

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. In order to continue our tradition of great monthly field trips, we are in need of a volunteer to serve as our Field Trip Coordinator starting in the fall. Ellen has offered to help the new Field Trip Coordinator initially. If you are interested or know someone who might be willing, please contact Ellen at 623-9404.

Kite Tails Editor – I have been editing the Kite Tails for nearly two years (time flies!!). Because of challenges with my back that make it hard for me to sit, I need to let this volunteer opportunity go. We do 9 issues from September through May. To be sure that we have an issue in September, please contact Glo at 548-8911 or glo26@sonic.net.

FIELD TRIPS Planned for Spring 2012

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.

Thank you for a donation to RR0S –
Richard and Mary Ann Cuneo
Jack and Marilyn Jones

Observations: Feb. 17, 2012-Mar. 18, 2012

Compiled by David A. Hofmann

Bird Species	Date	Location	Co.	#	Observer	Notes
Snow Goose	3/11/12	Las Gallinas Ponds	MRN	1	LeB	
White-fronted Goose	2/24/12	Buchi Station Road	NAP	26	BoB	
White-fronted Goose	3/11/12	Las Gallinas Ponds	MRN	2	LeB	
Eurasian Wigeon	3/4/12	Hudemann's Slough	SON	1 m	MiP, DoM, mob	
Eurasian Wigeon	3/11/12	Las Gallinas Ponds	MRN	2	LeB	
Blue-winged Teal	2/10-3/4/12	Hudemann's Slough	SON	1	BDP, MiP, mob	
Green-winged Teal	2/26/12	Hudemann's Slough	SON	1 m	MuB	"Eurasian"
Long-tailed Duck	2/19/12	Campbell Cove St. Pk	SON	1 f	KeG, DeZ, RoM	
White-winged Scoter	2/17/12	Duncan's Landing	SON	11	RiS, mob	
White-winged Scoter	3/10/12	Bodega Harbor	SON	1 f	MaD, mob	
Black Scoter	2/21/12	Duncan's Landing	SON	2	DoS	
Barrow's Goldeneye	2/24/12	Russ R/Duncan's Mill	SON	1 m	EuH	
Hooded Merganser	2/26/12	Austin Crk X Russ R.	SON	1 f	LiP	
Sooty Grouse	3/10/12	King's Ridge Road	SON	1 m	LiH, mob	
Red-necked Grebe	2/19/12	Campbell Cove St. Pk	SON	1	KeG, DeZ, RoM	
Bald Eagle	3/10/12	Russian River mouth	SON	1 imm	DAH, LiH, mob	
Ferruginous Hawk	2/12/12	N. Skaggs Island Road	SON	1	DaN	
Ferruginous Hawk	2/17/12	Hwy 1 X Russian Riv.	SON	1 ad	RiS, LeB, mob	
Ferruginous Hawk	3/3/12	Tolay Lake Reg. Park	SON	1	EuH	
Merlin	2/26/12	Cypress Hill Mem. Pk	SON	1	RoS	richardsonii race"
Prairie Falcon	2/12/12	N. Skaggs Island Road	SON	1	DaN	
Crested Caracara	3/2/12	SSU X Pet. Hill Rd	SON	1	StB	
Snowy Plover	2/16/12	Doran Beach Reg. Pk	SON	24	DaN	
Pacific Golden Plover	3/3/12	Shollenberger Pk	SON	1	EuH	
Ruff	2/12-3/4/12	Hudemann's Slough	SON	1	DaN, KeG, DeZ, HeK, MuB, BDP	
Laughing Gull	3/3-4/12	Las Gallinas Ponds	MRN	1	LuM, MiP, mob	
Glaucous Gull	2/17-29/12	Russian River mouth	SON	2 ad	RiS, HeK, BiD, DoK, BDP, mob	
Glaucous Gull	3/10/12	Russian River mouth	SON	1	LiH, mob	
Slaty-backed Gull	2/20-22/12	Russian River mouth	SON	1 ad	ToE, HeK, BiD, DoK, mob	
Slaty-backed Gull	3/4/12	Russian River mouth	SON	1 ad	ToE, JoS, mob	
Black-legged Kittiwake	2/29/12	Pt.Reyes/Drakes Beach	MRN	1	JeM, MiF	
Eurasian Collared Dove	3/5/12	Cazadero/Austin Crk	SON	3+	LiP	
Ancient Murrelet	2/16/12	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	2	LuM, CoR	
Barred Owl	2/15/12	Stewart's Pt/Skagg Sp Rd	SON	1	DaN	
Short-eared Owl	3/14/12	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	1	RaG	
White-throated Swift	3/10/12	King's Ridge Road	SON	1	LiH, mob	
Rufous Hummingbird	2/25/12	Oakmont feeder	SON	1 m	BeG	
Red-naped Sapsucker	3/10/12	Pt.Reyes/Coast Trail	MRN	1	RuS	
Lewis' Woodpecker	2/16-20/12	Ragle Ranch Reg. Pk	SON	1	LuM, CoR, EdB	
American Dipper	3/2/12	Hauser Bridge Rd	SON	1	LiH	
Townsend's Solitaire	3/10/12	King's Ridge Road	SON	1	JeM, LiH, mob	
Tennessee Warbler	2/21/12	Diekman's Store	SON	1	AnC	
Nashville Warbler	2/16/12	Diekman's Store	SON	1	LuM, CoR, mob	
Hermit Warbler	2/11/12	King Ridge Road	SON	1	DaN	
Hermit Warbler	2/11/12	Walker Road	SON	1	DaN	
Hermit Warbler	2/22/12	Spring Lake Reg. Pk	SON	1 f	BiD	
Palm Warbler	2/18/12	Port Son/Baylands Trl	SON	1	PBC	
Palm Warbler	2/5-3/4/12	Cypress Hill Mem. Pk	SON	1	RoS, CoT, LuM, AW, MiP, mob	
Chipping Sparrow	2/22-3/4/12	Cypress Hill Mem. Pk	SON	1	CoT, RAR, LuM, AW, MiP, mob	
Swamp Sparrow	2/14/12	Willow Creek Road	SON	1	DaN	
White-throated Sparrow	2/20-26/12	Napa River Ecol. Res.	NAP	2-5	DoM	
White-throated Sparrow	2/26/12	Monte Rio	SON	1	LiP	
White-throated Sparrow	3/13-18/12	Kenwood yard	SON	1-3	RAR	
Black-headed Grosbeak	2/11/12	Diekman's Store	SON	1	DaN	
Great-tailed Grackle	3/10/12	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	5	HeK, BiD, BoS, DoK	

Observers for this month: Bob Battigan, Murray Berner, Len Blumin, Ed Brady, Steve Bryan, Anthony Cermak, Peter B. Colasanti, Matthew Dodder, Bill Doyle, Todd Esterla, Mike Forney, Randy Gibb, Betty Groce, Kevin Guse, David A. Hofmann, Lisa Hug, Eugene Hunn, Don Kirker, Helen Kochenderfer, Roger Marlowe, Jeff Miller, Dominik Mosur, Lukas Musher, Dan Nelson, Michael Park, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Linda Petrulias, Cory Ritter, Ruth Ann Rudesill, Rusty Scalf, Doug Shaw, Bob Speckels, Richard Stallcup, John Sterling, Ron Storey, Colin Talcroft, Alan Wight, Dennis Zollner

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

New birds for the Sonoma County List have been seen and documented!

~reported by Ruthie Rudesill

SLATY-BACKED GULL - On December 16, 2011 Gene Hunn had observed and described a 3rd cycle Slaty-backed Gull at the Russian River mouth at Goat Rock Beach. On February 6, 2012 Dan Nelson observed a probable adult Slaty-backed Gull at the Russian River mouth at Goat Rock Beach. On February 20, 2012 Todd Easterla was on Goat Rock Beach and Don Kirker, Helen Kochenderfer and Bill Doyle were across the Russian River at the overlook observed an adult Slaty-backed Gull in the gull flock; Todd confirmed with photos.

PARAKEET AUKLET - which was previously on the county list but was removed after investigation to offshore locations indicated the birds sighted were in neighboring counties. On January 28, 2012 Gene Hunn and Peter Colasanti were on a fishing boat out of Bodega Bay and spotted a Parakeet Auklet flying away from them. GPS indicated that they were 5 miles west of Bodega Head and just in Sonoma County waters!

Note: the 2010 RUSTY BLACKBIRD record is being recirculated in the CRBC. The Sonoma County list is at 439 not including these species.

If You Build It, They Will Come

Submitted by Terry Haag

Years ago we put up a barn owl box in our Sebastopol yard. Barn owls moved right in. They raised owlets every year until 2010 when they did not return. But the box did not stay empty for long. Wood ducks came and nested there.

In 2011 the barn owls were back, but the wood ducks kept coming by and sitting on top of the box. The hen would often lean over the edge and look longingly at the entry. My husband, Gary, felt sorry for the homeless ducks, so he built them a wood duck box. They were delighted, and the hen went right inside to inspect it. But before she moved in, a western screech owl did. Once again she was homeless. But Gary has a very soft heart, so he built another wood duck box - problem solved. Or was it? The screech owl decided to move to the new box, then back and forth from box to box. The poor wood ducks eventually gave up and stopped coming. The peripatetic screech owl finally settled down and raised her owlets in the second duck box.

This year the barn owls and screech owls are back. Luckily we had a vacant box available for the wood ducks. A wood duck moved in and is incubating eggs right now. All's well that ends well.

Field Trip Report - King Ridge Road - March 10, 2012

Our all-day field trip to King Ridge Road and the Jenner Overlook above the River Mouth in the late afternoon was a huge success. The most interesting bird was a TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE picked up by the call by Jeff Miller. We could not locate the bird, but we all agreed on the "rusty gate" call note. This was up about 14 miles from the base of the road above Cazadero. We also saw a fly-over WHITE-THROATED SWIFT and 2 GOLDEN EAGLES. We heard SOOTY GROUSE. We enjoyed seeing large numbers of VARIED THRUSHES at multiple stops. And of course, the wildflowers were wonderful. Our stop at the Russian River Mouth Overlook was spectacular. We had a thrilling raptor display - most of it happening at eye level as we were on a high overlook. We first noticed an immature BALD EAGLE perched in an evergreen tree, but its perch was usurped by a PEREGRINE FALCON. We then watched an OSPREY catch fish below us. We could see it under the water. Above us, two WHITE-TAILED KITES dive-bombed a RED-TAILED HAWK. It was sometimes difficult to know where to look. We also saw a first cycle GLAUCOUS GULL on the beach. It was a wonderful day!

Bird species include: Common Merganser, Common Goldeneye, Surf Scoter, Sooty Grouse, Wild Turkey, California Quail, Red-throated Loon, Pacific Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Western Grebe, Brandt's Cormorant, Pelagic Cormorant, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, White-tailed Kite, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, American Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon, American Coot, Black Turnstone, Mew Gull, California Gull, Western Gull, Thayer's Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Glaucous Gull, Band-tailed Pigeon, White-throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Acorn Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Hutton's Vireo, Steller's Jay, Western Scrub-Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Oak Titmouse, Bushtit, White-breasted Nuthatch, Pygmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Pacific Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Western Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Varied Thrush, European Starling, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Spotted Towhee, California Towhee, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Oregon Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Lesser Goldfinch, and House Sparrow.

Trip participants were: Ellen Blustein, Betty Burrridge, Juanita Doran, Jim Fritzhand, Don Howard, Lisa Hug (leader), David Hofmann, Jack Jones, Marilyn Jones, Jeff Miller, Mike Nelligan, Linda Petrulias, Elaine Pruitt, Mike Parmeter, Annette Roth, Craig Roth, and Don Reinberg.

RROS Support of Wildlife Conservation

Redwood Region Ornithological Society's mission statement encourages the study and conservation of birds, other wildlife, and their natural habitat. Promotion of this objective has included donations by RROS to various environmental and educational organizations that support our mission statement, including Sonoma State University's J. Arnold Memorial Scholarship Fund, PRBO Conservation Science, the Burrowing Owl Conservation Network and Casa Grande High School. Over the past six years these donations have exceeded \$3,000.

This year's recipients are LAGUNA DE SANTA ROSA FOUNDATION and SONOMA LAND TRUST.

Correction: In the March issue, the photo of the Tufted Jay was erroneously described from Nicaragua when these birds actually occur only in the Sierra Madre of Mexico. Thanks to Peter Colasanti for setting me straight. Glo Wellman, your current Kite Tales Editor

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

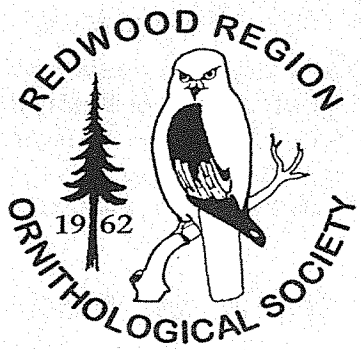
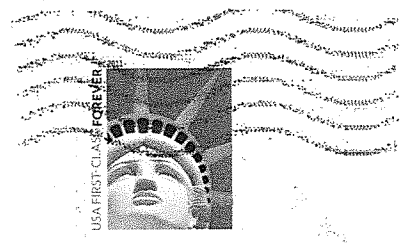
Committee Chairs

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.

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