



Kite Tales

Volume 47 Number 9

May 2012



Wood Duck by Dennis
See article page 4

**RROS General Meeting
May 10, 2012 at 6 p.m.**

***Spring Potluck/Potluck and Evening Bird Walk
At Sugarloaf Ridge State Park,
Picnic Area across from the Day Use parking lot***

Directions: Take Hwy 12 to Adobe Canyon Road (at the western edge of Kenwood). Drive north up the mountain to the State park entry station. Pay the entry fee or display your pass, and park in the Day Use Lot about 100 yards ahead. Look for RROS members at the picnic area directly across from the lot. Bring food to share, your own plates and utensils, beverages, and binoculars

**Thank you for donations to RR0S from –
Veronica Bowers
Lance Groody
Gary and Teresita Haag
Benjamin and Ruthmary Parmeter in Memory of Nancy Conzett**

Kite Tails Editor – Needed!

Kite Tails Editor – I have been editing the Kite Tails for 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. Computer Skills needed. The newsletter is currently put together in MS Word. It takes about 4-5 hours in the last week of the month, usually compiled over a few days time. People are generally quite good about sending computer ready documents that can be cut and pasted into the newsletter. 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, 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

Tuesday, May 29, outer Point Reyes

We go in search of spring variants at Pt Reyes. Meet at the Petaluma Park 'n' Ride at 7:15 a.m. for carpooling (off Lakeville Hwy at the junction with Hwy 101. Bring optics, lunch, layers, and money as we will stop at the Bovine bakery! Contact Ruth if you have any questions at (707) 484-0768 or email at ruthier@sonic.net

No RR0S Fieldtrips scheduled for Summer

Watch for your September Kite Tales with information about the new fieldtrips that will be scheduled for Fall, 2012. Our new Field Trip Coordinator is Peter Colasanti – (707)763-2450. Thanks Peter for stepping up.

New Officers for 2012-2014

New officers for the following year have been elected. Their terms begin with their summer business meeting. They are: President - Bill Doyle, Vice President - Terry Haag, Secretary - Mike Nelligan and Treasurer - Don Howard. The new Field Trip Coordinator is Peter Colasanti.

Observations: Mar. 19, 2012-Apr. 18, 2012

Compiled by David A. Hofmann

Bird Species	Date	Location	Co.	#	Observer	Notes
Cackling Goose	3/19/12	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	20	BoD	
Cackling Goose	4/3/12	Pt. Reyes/Giacomini Pond	MRN	4	BoB	
Eurasian Wigeon	3/19-4/2/12	Las Gallinas Ponds	MRN	1 m	DaE, GuM, MaD, LeB, mob	
Blue-winged Teal	4/3-10/12	Pt. Reyes/Giacomini Pond	MRN	3	BoB	
White-winged Scoter	4/16/12	Pt.Reyes/Drake's Beach	MRN	2 m&f	DaH	
American Bittern	4/15/12	Pope Cyn RdxHardin Rd	NAP	1	ChD	
Bald Eagle	4/1/12	Lake Hennessey	NAP	1 ad	NoM	
Bald Eagle	4/15/12	Tomales Bay/Hog Isld	MRN	2 juv	PaB	
Zone-tailed Hawk	2/27/12	Bodega Head St. Pk	SON	1	MiW, fide DoM	2 nd Cty Record
Swainson's Hawk	4/16/12	Millerick Road	SON	2 imm	EuH	
Ferruginous Hawk	3/20/12	Lake Tolay Reg. Park	SON	2	AnL, EuH, RAR, EIP	
Golden Eagle	3/20/12	Lake Tolay Reg. Park	SON	2	AnL, EuH, RAR, EIP	
Golden Eagle	3/23-24/12	Hwy 101/Cotati Grade	SON	1	BeO, LaB	
Golden Eagle	4/7/12	White House Pool	MRN	1 juv	RiS	
Peregrine Falcon	3/20/12	Lake Tolay Reg. Park	SON	1	AnL, EuH, RAR, EIP	
Peregrine Falcon	4/1/12	Sebastopol/Vine Hill Rd	SON	2	EdB	mating ?
Snowy Plover	3/22/12	Sonoma-Napa Marsh	SON	16	EuH	
Red Knot	3/21/12	Bodega Bay/Westside Pk	SON	2	ScC	
Ruff	3/22/12	Hudemann's Slough	SON	1	MuB, mob	
Laughing Gull	3/19-4/2/12	Las Gallinas Ponds	MRN	1 ad	DaE, GuM, BiN, LeB, mob	
Marbled Murrelet	4/6/12	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	1	DaE	
Northern Pygmy Owl	4/6/12	Armstrong Woods	SON	1-2	GoB	
White-throated Swift	3/26/12	Las Gallinas Ponds	MRN	2	MaD	
Calliope Hummingbird	4/8/12	Petaluma yard	SON	1 m	DaN	
Rufous Hummingbird	4/11/12	Cazadero yard	SON	1 m	DeB	
Eastern Phoebe	3/19/12	Tolay Lake Reg. Park	SON	1	AnL	
Horned Lark	3/20/12	Tolay Lake Reg. Park	SON	2	AnL, EuH, RAR, EIP	
No. Rgh-wngd Swallow	3/23/12	Lake Raphine Park	SON	4	CoT	
Bank Swallow	4/12/12	Schollenberger Park	SON	2	RiS	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	4/3/12	Nicasio Reservoir	MRN	1	BoB	
California Thrasher	4/2/12	Ragle Ranch Reg. Pk	SON	2	BiD, RiM	
Phainopepla	3/23-4/9/12	Napa yard	NAP	2-3	BDP	
Nashville Warbler	3/21/12	Diekman's Store	SON	1	ScC, mob	
Yellow Warbler	4/3/12	Willow Creek Road	SON	3	BiD	
Hermit Warbler	4/1/12	Stinson Beach	MRN	1	BoB	
American Redstart	4/11/12	Santa Rosa yard	SON	1 m	JeT	
Grasshopper Sparrow	3/23/12	Mt Burdell Open Sp	MRN	2	DaE	
White-throated Sparrow	4/12-18/12	Kenwood yard	SON	3	RAR	singing
Great-tailed Grackle	3/19/12	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	1 f	BoD	
Hooded Oriole	4/3/12	Bolinas	MRN	1	RyD	
Bullock's Oriole	3/20/12	Lake Tolay Reg. Park	SON	2	AnL, EuH, RAR, EIP	

Observers: Bob Battagin, Dennis Beall, Murray Berner, Len Blumin, Paola Bouley, Ed Brady, Larry Broderick, Scott Carey, Mark Dettling, Ryan DiGaudio, Bill Doyle, Chuck Dresel, Bob Dyer, Daniel Edelstein, David & Denise Hamilton, Eugene Hunn, Andy LaCasse, Rick Marsi, Norm Moore, Dominik Mosur, Dan Nelson, Bill Noble, Becky Olsen, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Elaine Pruett, Ruth Ann Rudesill, Richard Stallcup, Colin Talcroft, Jean Tonascia, Mitchell Waite, Guy McWethy,

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

Field Trip Report for Saturday, April 21, 2012 - Mitchell Canyon - Mt Diablo

by leader, Rick Le Baudour

Eleven devoted birders braved the 88 degree heat to explore the upper reaches of Mitchell Canyon looking for migrants. Highlights included 2 Hammond's flycatchers, 1 adult Golden eagle, a very odd looking juvenile Red-tailed hawk (?), 1 adult Peregrine falcon, lots of white-throated swifts, many ash-throated flycatchers, a vocal California thrasher, a bright male Western tanager, a singing Nashville warbler and last but not least two baby reptiles right in the middle of the trail, one a Rubber Boa and the other a rattlesnake (species unknown) almost stepped on by the leader. Notable misses were Western wood pewee, Lazuli bunting and chipping sparrow!

60 species were identified: Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, American Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon, Wild Turkey, California, Quail, Mourning Dove, White throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Allen's Hummingbird, Acorn Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Hammond's Flycatcher, Western Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Tree Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Steller's Jay, Scrub Jay, Common Raven, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Oak Titmouse, Bushtit, White-breasted Nuthatch, Bewick's Wren, House Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Western Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, California Thrasher, European Starling, Solitary Vireo, Hutton's Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Rufous-sided Towhee, Brown Towhee, Golden-crowned Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Brown-headed Cowbird, Bullock's Oriole, Purple Finch, Lesser Goldfinch.

If You Build It, They Will Come - Wood Duck Update

Submitted by Terry Haag

On the morning of April 15th, our nesting Wood Duck hen appeared in the opening of her box (see photo on front by Dennis). She stayed there for at least 45 minutes, looking around. Finally she flew down to the ground and began calling softly to her brood. One after another the ducklings jumped out. They showed no hesitation, so it happened very fast. I do not know if wood ducks can count, but clearly the mother knew when all the ducklings were there. She immediately moved off to lead her disciplined flock to water. They moved along very quickly. They got a big fright when my husband Gary had to chase off a cat. The mother used the timeless wounded wing strategy to lead Gary away. It worked. While this was going on, the group of ducklings stayed all together, tucked down in tall grass. Then they all went across the road and through a neighbor's yard on their way to Cunningham Marsh. There were 12 eggs, and 11 of them hatched.

Note Suggestion for mounting Wood Duck boxes: From the photo, you can see the box is mounted at a slight tilt. Gary tilted the top of the box toward the front, creating a launch pad for ducklings. We think this helped them get out very quickly. Speed can be a life saver for them at a very vulnerable time.



Photo by Tom Reynolds

OWLS AT SPRING LAKE by Tom Reynolds

The Great-horned Owls are nesting at Spring Lake again this year. On February 20th a pair took over a Red-shouldered Hawk nest high up in a pine tree. Around March 25th, 2 owlets hatched. They grew fast and became more and more daring. I often saw them perched on branches outside the nest. Then, on the morning of April 24th, I arrived at the park at 7 and found the younger owlet on the ground. It was a big fall, but, as you can see from the photo, the owlet did not appear to be badly hurt. I notified the park staff, and they called the Bird Rescue Center which came and picked up the owlet. The owlet is doing well at Bird Rescue, eating 5 times a day. This feisty, little owlet is constantly ignoring the advice to "never bite the hand that feeds you." They expect to return it to Spring Lake around May 1st to rejoin its family. You can see more photos of these owls on my website <http://tomreynoldsd90.shutterfly.com/>

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 2011-2012 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

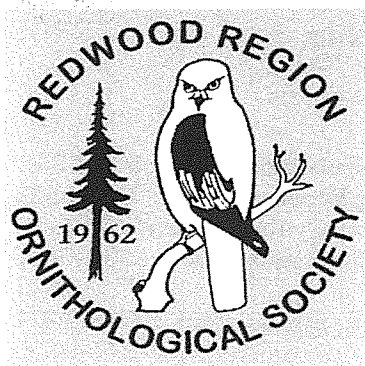
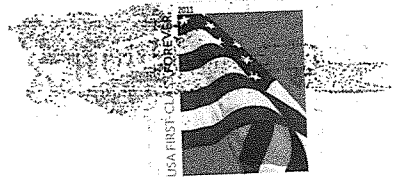
Kite Tales Deadlines: Submit observations to David Hofmann by the 15th of each month, and all other items to Glo Wellman by the 20th of the month (August through April).



KITE TALES
979 Hogwarts Circle
Petaluma CA 9954

NORTH BAY CALIF.

02 MAY 2012 107 ET



Benjamin D. Parmeter, MD
2500 Emerson St
Napa, CA 94558

