



Kite Tales

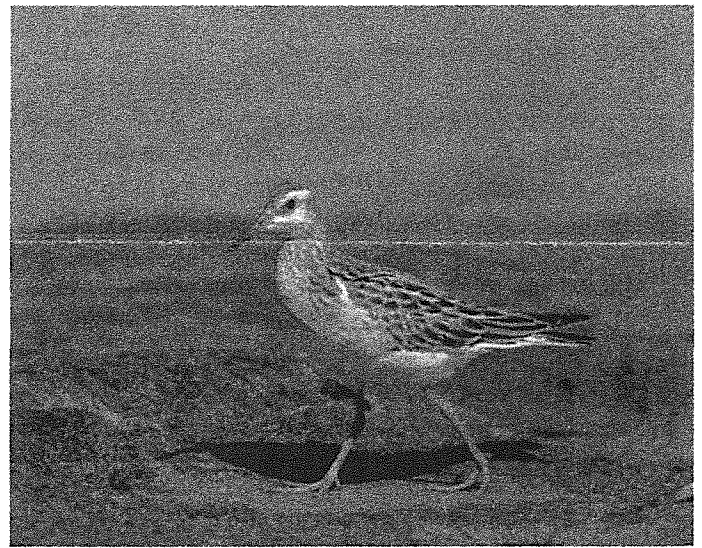
Volume 48 Number 4

December 2012

**RROS General Meeting
December 13, 2012, 7 p.m.
Laguna Wastewater Treatment
Facility,
4300 Llano Road, Santa Rosa**

"Member's Photos Night"

Open projector night, for members to share their fabulous photos of great birds from around Sonoma County, and farther afield. Bring your best shots, and amaze us all!



***Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, by Roger Marlowe,
Doran Beach, harbor side***

Directions to the monthly 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 December General meeting - NEW LOCATION - This month, join us at **5:00 p.m.** at the **Outback Steakhouse**, 4619 Redwood Dr., Rohnert Park. Take the Golf Course Exit from Highway 101. The restaurant is located at the north end of the Wal-Mart Center just west of Highway 101.

Save the Date
General Meeting for Thursday, January 10, 2013 at 7 p.m.
Cordell Bank Marine Sanctuary

Jennifer Stock, Education and Outreach Coordinator for the Cordell Bank Marine Sanctuary, will describe the rich habitat of the Cordell Bank. She will focus on the birds and other wildlife found in the area and the threats that they face.

FIELD TRIPS – November 2012 and beyond

Sunday, December 16, 2012 - Santa Rosa Christmas Bird Count

This is traditionally run in lieu of a field trip for December by the Society. If you don't already have an area, contact our President/Editor/CBC Compiler Bill Doyle for assignment, shortbill@comcast.net. The compilation dinner after the count will be held again this year at Coco's Restaurant, on South Farmer's Lane, in Santa Rosa, across from AAA. Event begins at 5:00pm.

Sunday, January 13, 2012 – San Mateo Coast

We'll look for rarities from San Francisco Presidio south to Pescadero Marsh and Pigeon Point Lighthouse. We'll also stop at Venice Beach [Princeton] to view the usual crowds of gulls for rarities that often show up there. Heavy rain cancels; lighter intermittent rain does not cancel - wear warm clothing, bring rain gear and lunch. Meet at the Petaluma Park and Ride at Lakeville Hwy and Hwy 101 at 7:00am. Richard Merris, leader.

Saturday, February 9, 2013 - Wintering Raptors and Waterfowl of Solano and Yolo Counties

The open agricultural lands of Solano and Yolo Counties provide excellent foraging habitat for scores of wintering raptors, while the wetlands of the Yolo Bypass 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 winter habitats in search of Ferruginous and Rough-legged hawks; Merlin; Prairie Falcon; Burrowing, Barn and Great-horned Owls; Long-billed Curlew, as well as the elusive and threatened Mountain Plover. We also expect to see a representative sampling of waterfowl and a variety of shorebirds at the Yolo Bypass 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. Heavy rains cancel. For questions or more info, contact Terry Colborn, field trip leader at 916.705.8991 or www.TLCBirding.com

Friday, March 8 to Sunday March 10 - Carrizo Plain

Greet the spring; it comes early to the San Joaquin Valley and adjacent foothills of eastern San Luis Obispo County. Details in future editions.

Field Trip Report for Saturday, November 10 - Southern Sonoma Hotspots
by Field Trip Coordinator, Peter Colasanti

Eighteen members and friends showed up for this one, finding a total of 85 species. We started at Shollenberger Park, spent late morning in Tolay Regional Park, then took a long lunch at Papa's Taverna. After lunch, we explored Mangel Road and Tolay Creek Ranch; we were so busy there we never made it to Porto Sonoma. There were good numbers of raptors, more waterfowl than one might expect on small bodies of water, and a good mix of passerines, including a late Wilson's Warbler and a solo Pine Siskin.

Participants: Peter Colasanti, Denise Herzberg, Laura Holms & Michael Martin, Nancy & Gene Hunn, Susan Kelly, Don Kirker, Andy Lacasse, Rick Lebaudour, Ron Mallory, Gerry Pacis, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Elaine Pruett, Don Reinberg, and Paul & Julie Wade.

Species seen: Eared Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, American Bittern, Mute Swan, American Wigeon, Gadwall, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Ring-necked Duck, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, White-tailed Kite, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Golden Eagle, American Kestrel, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, American Coot, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Black-bellied Plover, Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Long-billed Dowitcher, Greater Yellowlegs, Western Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Western Gull, American Herring Gull, Rock Pigeon, Burrowing Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, American Pipit, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Rock Wren, Bewick's Wren, Marsh Wren, Northern Mockingbird, Western Bluebird, American Robin, Bushtit, White-breasted Nuthatch, Loggerhead Shrike, Western Scrub-Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, European Starling, Hutton's Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Spotted Towhee, California Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Lesser Goldfinch, American Goldfinch.

Observations: Oct. 21, 2012-Nov. 20, 2012 Compiled by David A. Hofmann

Bird Species	Date/s	Location	County. #	Observers
Cackling Goose (leucopareia)	11/19/12	Spring Lake Reg. Park	SON 1	BiD
Blue-winged Teal	11/18/12	Sanford X Occidental Rd	SON 3	BiD
Long-tailed Duck	11/3-11/10	Portuguese Beach	SON 2	DoK, BiD, AW
Long-tailed Duck	11/14/12	Bodega Head St. Park	SON 2	ScC
Redhead	11/5/12	Salmon Crk X Hwy 1	SON 1	LeB
Redhead	11/19/12	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON 3	m1f RoS
Red-necked Grebe	11/11/12	Hwy 1 X Coleman V. Rd	SON 3	AW
Red-necked Grebe	11/11/12	Hwy 1 X Portuguese Bch	SON 1	AW
Northern Fulmar	11/14/12	Bodega Head St. Park	SON 1	ScC
Manx Shearwater (3 rd city record)	10/27/12	Pelagic trip	SON 1	EuH, mob
Blk-vented Shearwater	10/27/12	Pelagic trip	SON 1	EuH, mob
Bald Eagle	10/29-11/13/12	Russian River/Jenner	SON 2	LaB, JuM, mob
Northern Goshawk	10/29/12	R.L.Stevenson St. Pk	LAK 1	EuH
Ferruginous Hawk (dark morph)	10/28-11/18/12	n.e. of Petaluma	SON 1	ad AW, EuH, BeO,
Ferruginous Hawk	11/4/12	n.e. of Petaluma	SON 1	f RiK
Ferruginous Hawk	11/5/12	Estero Americano	SON 3	LaB
Ferruginous Hawk	11/6/12	Hwy 128 X Angus Ranch	SON 1	JaF
Ferruginous Hawk	11/11/12	Tolay Lake Reg. Park	SON 2	CoT, RROS
Ferruginous Hawk	11/14/12	Bodega Farm Pond	SON 1	ScC
Rough-legged Hawk mob	11/5/12	Estero Americano Pres.	SON 1	LaB, ReL, SLT,

Rough-legged Hawk	11/11/12	Tolay Lake Reg. Park	SON	2	CoT, RROS F.T.
Rough-legged Hawk	11/11/12	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	LiH, mob
Golden Eagle	11/11/12	Tolay Lake Reg. Park	SON	3	CoT, RROS F.T.
Golden Eagle	11/10/12	Bodega Bay	SON	1	imm DeF
Merlin	11/4/12	Doran Regional Pk	SON	1	RiB
Merlin	11/17/12	Delta Pond X S.R. Crk	SON	1	GoB, MAS F.T.
Peregrine Falcon	11/11/12	Diekmann's Store	SON	1	AW
Peregrine Falcon	11/11/12	Tolay Lake Reg. Park	SON	1	CoT, RROS F.T.
Peregrine Falcon	11/14/12	Bodega Head St. Park	SON	1	ScC
Clapper Rail	11/14/12	Giacomini Restor. Marsh	MRN	3	Erik Grijalva
Pacific Golden Plover	10/19-21/1	Bodega Bay	SON	1	DaE, MaG, JoM
Marbled Murrelet	11/11/12	Hwy 1 X Portuguese Bch	SON	1	AW
Ancient Murrelet	11/14/12	Bodega Head St. Park	SON	8	ScC
Rhinoceros Auklet	11/14/12	Bodega Head St. Park	SON	1	ScC
Cassin's Auklet	11/11/12	Hwy 1 X Colman V. Rd	SON	1	AW
Cassin's Auklet	11/14/12	Bodega Head St. Park	SON	1	ScC
Short-eared Owl	11/17/12	Delta Pond X S.R. Crk	SON	1	GoB, MAS F.T.
Burrowing Owl	11/11/12	Tolay Lake Reg. Park	SON	1	CoT, RROS F.T.
No. Saw-whet Owl	11/11/12	Willow Creek Canyon	SON	1	AW
Common Poorwill	10/29/12	Coleman Valley Rd	SON	1	RoM
Common Poorwill	11/09/12	Willow Creek Road	SON	1	BrO
Ash-throated FL	11/05/12	Bodega Head St. Park	SON	1	JaS
Tropical Kingbird	10/23-29/12	BML housing entrance	SON	1	BiG, ScC
Canyon Wren	11/12/12	R.L.Stevenson St. Pk	SON	1	AW
Townsend's Solitaire	10/29-11/12/12	R.L.Stevenson SP	SON	5	EuH, AW
Sage Thrasher	10/23-24/12	Bodega Marine Lab.	SON	1	JaS, BDP, EuH, DaN, DAH
Red-throated Pipit	10/21/12	Pt.Reyes/Abbott's Lgn	MRN	1	ErE
Palm Warbler	11/18/12	Westside Regional Park	SON	1	LiH
Painted Redstart	11/12-14/1	2 Pt.Reyes/"B" Ranch	MRN	1m	DaS, mob
2 nd county record					
Western Tanager	11/11/12	Sebastopol yard	SON	1	VeB
Clay-colored Sparrow	10/11/12	Doran Regional Park	SON	1	BiG
Field Sparrow	11/3-11/5/12	Pt.Reyes/"A" Ranch	MRN	1	KeH, RiS, JoM, mob (1 st cty record)
Swamp Sparrow	11/16-18/12	Place to Play Park	SON	1	CoT, EuH, BiD
Chstnt-clred Longspur	10/21-29/12	Pt.Reyes/Abbott's Lgn	MRN	1 f	ErE, JeM, EuH
Tri-colored Blackbird	11/4/12	Portuguese Beach x Hwy 1	SON	40	BiD
Evening Grosbeak	10/26/12	Larkfield yard	SON	1	DoS
Evening Grosbeak	11/7/12	Napa yard	NAP	3	BDP

Observers for this period: Gordon Bebee, Rita Bevans, Len Blumin, Veronica Bowers, Larry Broderick, Scott Carey, Bill Doyle, Daniel Edelstein, Erik Enbody, James Fitzhand, Dea Freid, Joe Morlan, Maureen Geiger, Bill Grummer, Keith Hansen, David A. Hofmann, Lisa Hug, Eugene Hunn, Don Kirker, Richard Kuehn, Reta Lockert, Julie Marlow, Roger Marlow, Jeff Miller, Dan Nelson, Brook OConnor, Becky Olsen, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Doug Shaw, Dan Singer, Jackie Sones, Sonoma Land Trust, Richard Stallcup, Ron Storey, Colin Talcroft, Alan Wight

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

NEW FEATURE! This month, we begin a new feature in *Kite Tales*:

“PISHING with PARMETER”

During the winter of 1973-74, there was an invasion of Snowy Owls into Northern CA, with 30 birds present, as far south as Monterrey County. My son John and I were immediately interested in seeing this first record. After three weekends of searching the coast, with Gordie Bolander and Laurie Binford, we still had not located the bird. On the fourth weekend, we headed north toward Humboldt Bay, where three birds had been reported, only to find 101 closed at Leggett, due to heavy storms.

Then, on the afternoon of January 31, 1974, I received a call that a Snowy Owl had been seen at Bodega Marine Lab. I told my wife, Sally, that I was on my way, but she said, in a tone of finality, “You’ll not leave without John. He wants to see that bird as much as you do!” I picked John up outside his last class at Redwood Middle school, and we were off. Our hopes faded temporarily when we were told at the Lab that the bird had flown north 45 minutes earlier. John and I took off running north toward Mussel Point. As we approached, we noticed that one of the white CA State Property signs along the beach seemed to move. It was the bird! We walked north, keeping a dune between us and the bird. When we peered over, there it was...only 60 or so feet away! What a thrill! Soon, others showed up, including Van Remsen, Peter and Caroline Connors, Bill Principe, and Suzanne Methvin. We celebrated with dinner at The Tides, including a call to tell Sally of our success. She was delighted, knowing that there would have been no rest in our house until the Snowy Owl had been sighted. May another show up in Sonoma County soon. *Mike~*

NEW MEMBER- RROS welcomes **Denise Herzberg**, and thanks her for her generous donation.

MANY THANKS! To **Glo Wellman** and **Dea Freid** for their essential help in preparing this, my first issue of **KITE TALES**. Bill Doyle, ed.

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 – Bill Doyle	1966 Belmont Ct Santa Rosa, 95404	shortbill@comcast.net	483-8773
Vice Pres - Terry Haag	1340 Big Plum Dr Sebastopol 95472	teresitahaag@comcast.net	823-8527
Secretary – Mike Nelligan	4663 Sullivan Way, Santa Rosa 95409	mnbudymn@sonic.net	539-1897
Treasurer - Don Howard	979 Hogwarts Circle, Petaluma 94954	binkybunji2@comcast.net	637-0868

Committee Chairs

Field Trips – Peter B Colasanti	524 East D St, Petaluma 94954	peter.colasanti@yahoo.com	763-2450
Observations- David Hofmann	2021 Pioneer Wy #47 Santa Rosa 95403	nnamfoh@comcast.net	546-0325
Christmas Count – Bill Doyle	1966 Belmont Ct, SRosa, 95404	shortbill@comcast.net	483-8773
Kite Tales – Bill Doyle	1966 Belmont Ct Santa Rosa, 95404	shortbill@comcast.net	483-8773

Kite Tales Deadlines: Submit observations to David Hofmann, all other items to Bill Doyle by the 20th of the month.

The Himalayan legend says
there are beautiful white birds
that live completely in flight.
They are born in the air,

must learn to fly before falling
and die also in their flying.
Maybe you have been born
into such a life

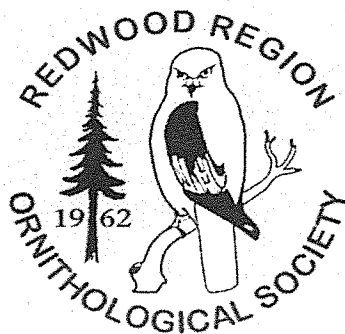
with the bottom dropping out.

-from "In Flight" by Jennifer K. Sweeney

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