



Kite Tales

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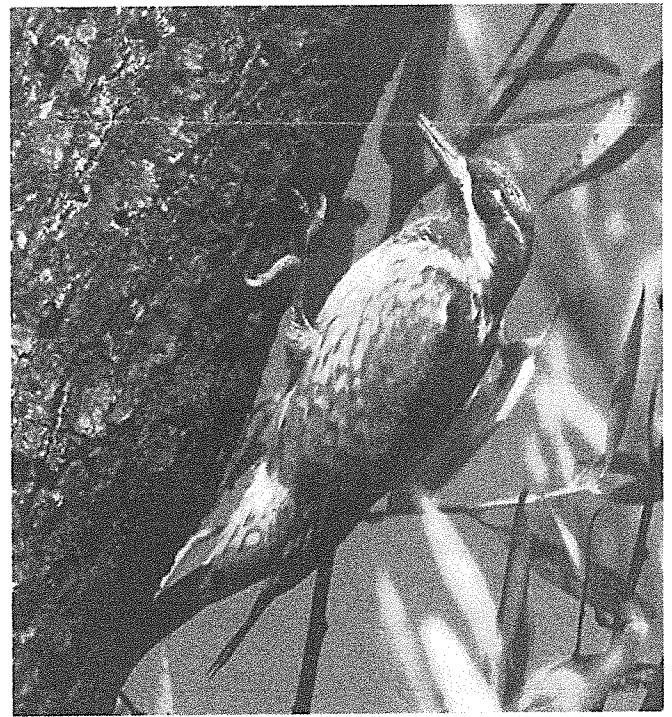
~IN MEMORIAM~

This issue of Kite Tales is dedicated to RICH STALLCUP, birding genius, premier naturalist, mentor and friend to so many of us, and to admirers all over the world.

**RROS General Meeting
January 10, 2013, 7:00pm
Laguna Wastewater Treatment Plant**

"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.



***Red-naped X Sapsucker, Spring Lake, by
Ron Storey***

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 January General meeting - NEW TIME - This month, join us at **5:30pm** 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: February 14, 2013

The Mystery of Bird Song

David Lukas, a California naturalist, author, and nature guide, will share his insights and answer questions about the magical world of bird song.

FIELD TRIPS – January 2013 and beyond:

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.

Santa Rosa CBC Report, Sunday, December 16, 2012~ by CBC compiler, Bill Doyle

The 2012 Santa Rosa CBC was another wet one. Participants braved the rain and cold to comb their areas for as many species as they could find. While the species total of **138** was low, as is expected under the conditions, there were many excellent birds, including Ross's Goose, Tundra Swan, Eurasian Wigeon, Redhead, Mountain Quail, both Golden and Bald Eagles, all four falcons, Burrowing Owl (again), Red-naped X Sapsucker, Loggerhead Shrike, and Orange-crowned and Wilson's Warblers. An added spectacle at Spring Lake was a murmuration of Starlings, estimated at up to 12,000 birds! Many thanks to all the volunteers, and special thanks to Tom McCuller and Kathy Muegle, who stepped in to lead their territories this year. Let's keep our fingers crossed for drier weather next year. See you then!

Complete Species List for the 2012 Santa Rosa CBC: Ross's Goose, Cackling Goose, Canada Goose, Tundra Swan, Wood Duck, Gadwall, Eurasian Wigeon, American Wigeon, Mallard, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Ring-necked Pheasant, Wild Turkey, Mountain Quail, California Quail, Pied-billed Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Clark's Grebe, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Cattle Egret, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, White-tailed Kite, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle, American Kestrel, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon, Common Gallinule, American Coot, Killdeer, Black-necked Stilt, Greater Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper, Long-billed Curlew, Least Sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe, Mew Gull, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, Herring Gull, Thayer's Gull, Western Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Rock Pigeon, Band-tailed Pigeon, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Mourning Dove, Western Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Burrowing Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Acorn Woodpecker, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Loggerhead Shrike, Hutton's Vireo, Steller's Jay, Western-Scrub Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Tree Swallow, Violet-green Swallow, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Oak Titmouse, Bushtit, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Bewick's Wren, Pacific Wren, Marsh Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Western Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Varied Thrush, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, American Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Spotted Towhee, California Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Brown-headed Cowbird, Purple Finch, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Lesser Goldfinch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

Black Rails, and Those Who Chase Them~ by Peter Colasanti

The impromptu Rail Tide Outing called for at the last meeting, and taking place on Friday, December 14, was a great success. Thirteen Black Rails were flushed, breaking the prior site record by one, in addition to four Virginia Rails. One Black Rail found refuge below a coyote bush, providing good viewing for the majority of the attendees, namely: Bill Doyle, Peter Colasanti, Lisa Hug, Andy Lacasse, Richard Merris, Giel Witt. Conditions for a rail tide occur during unusually high tides, especially around the winter solstice, known lately in the media as "King Tides", and in the vernacular as spring tides.

Other species observed included:

Great Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Mute Swan, Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, White-tailed Kite, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Bonaparte's Gull, Anna's Hummingbird, Tree Swallow, Violet-green Swallow, Cedar Waxwing, Marsh Wren, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow.

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

Bird Species	Date/s	Location	County.	#	Observers
White-fronted Goose	11/23/12	Doran Beach Reg. Pk	SON	20	LoK
White-fronted Goose	12/1/12	Hel. Putnam Reg Pk	SON	1 im	EuH
Ross's Goose	12/13/12	Robert's Lake Park	SON	1	CoT
Ross's Goose	12/4/12	Bodega Hwy/Carmody	SON	1	DaW
Snow Goose	12/1/12	Hel. Putnam Reg Pk	SON	1	Eu
Snow Goose	12/7/12	Bodega Hwy/Carmody Rd	SON	1	BDP, MaB
Cackling Goose	12/7/12	Bodega Bay Harbor	SON	1	BDP, MaB
Cackling Goose	12/13/12	Robert's Lake Park	SON	1	CoT
Cackling Goose	12/16/12	Laguna de Santa Rosa	SON	1	SRCB
Tundra Swan	12/6/12	Valley Ford-Estero Rd	SON	4	BiD
Tundra Swan	12/16/12	Willowside Rd/Delta Pd	SON	1	SRCBC
Redhead	12/4/12	Hudemann Slough	SON	3	BiD
Eurasian Wigeon	12/1-8/12	Doran Beach Reg. Pk	SON	1-2 m	mob
Eurasian Wigeon	12/16/12	Willowside Rd/Delta Pd	SON	1 m	SRCBC
Long-tailed Duck	11/22/12	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	1	ScC
Barrow's Goldeneye	12/4-5/12	Porto Bodega	SON	2-3	BiD, EuH
Blk-vented Shearwater	11/26/12	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	5	BDP
Bald Eagle	11/22-24/12	Russian R./Penny Island	SON	2 ad	mob
Bald Eagle	12/16/12	Willowside Rd/Delta Pd	SON	1 ad	SRCBC
Bald Eagle	12/16/12	Bodega Bay	SON	2 ad	Je & RuT
Ferruginous Hawk	11/22-24/12	SR116 X Adobe Rd	SON	2 ad	EuH, DaE
Rough-legged Hawk	12/4/12	Skagg's Island Bridge	SON	1	BiD
Black Rail	12/13/12	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	3	EuH, AnL, GaC
Lesser Yellowlegs	12/1/12	Petaluma/Rainsville Rd	SON	1	AW
Ruddy Turnstone	11/26-12/7/12	Porto Bodega	SON	2-1	BDP, DAH
Rock Sandpiper	12/2/12	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	1	JaS
Red Phalarope	12/5-7/12	Doran Beach Reg. Pk	SON	5	DeF, BiD, DAH, BDP
Glaucous Gull	11/24/12	Goat Rock State Beach	SON	1	NoA
Ancient Murrelet	11/22-12/9/12	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	19	ScC, BiD, mob
Cassin's Auklet	11/22/12	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	1	ScC
Cassin's Auklet	12/8/12	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	1	EuH
Burrowing Owl	11/24/12	Pomo Trail X Red Hill Trail	SON	1	AnR
Short-eared Owl	11/22/12	Seaview Rd. X Ft. Ross Rd	SON	1	BOC
Lewis's Woodpecker	11/28/12	Knoxville Wildlife Area	NAP	8	RAR LiP
Red-naped X Sapsucker	12/1-12/12	Spring Lake Reg. Pk	SON	1	CoT, mob
Dusky-capped FL	12/6/12	Pt.Reyes/Fish Docks	MAR	1	KeW, mob
Phainopepla	11/25/12	Napa/W. Park School	NAP	1	BDP
Palm Warbler	11/23/12	Hwy1 X Salmon Crk pond	SON	1	LoK
Swamp Sparrow	11/23/12	Sebastopol/Laguna Pk	SON	1	ScC
Wht-throated Sparrow	11/20/12	Sebastopol yard	SON	1	ScC
Evening Grosbeak	11/24-12/13/12	Santa Rosa/Fulton yard	SON	2+	DoS

Observers for this period: Noah Arthur, Scott Carey, Gary Compari, Bill Doyle, Daniel Edelstein, Rick Evets, Dea Freid, David A. Hofmann, Eugene Hunn, Logan Kahle, Andy Lacasse, Rick LeBaudour, Bill Lenarz, Norm Moore, Brook O'Connor, Becky Olsen, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Linda Petrulias, Tom Reynolds, Annette Roth, Ruth Ann Rudesill, Doug Shaw, Jackie Sones, Colin Talcroft, Jean & Ruth Tonascia, Alan Wight, Ken Wilson, David Wimpfheimer

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

"PISHING with PARMETER"

On June 24, 1995, the day after I retired, I took a pelagic trip with Shearwater Journeys to the Cordell Bank. It was a lack-luster trip, with few birds being seen. As we were getting close to shore on our return, I went into the cabin to lie down. Debra was in the cabin at that time, and I jokingly asked her to remove me from the manifest, and to return my money. Suddenly, I heard a call from the deck, "Crested Auklet!" I was immediately up and headed outside. As I passed Debra again, I said, "Put me back on the manifest!" Just to the east of the boat was the Crested Auklet. It was a beauty, with prominent feathers curling forward from the forehead. It was only about 100 yards offshore of the Bodega Marine Lab, and easily seen. It was my first experience with (digital) cameras, which allowed immediate viewing of the image. Wonderful shots of the bird were obtained. Much celebrating of California's second record for this species ensued. Later that day, a chase boat set out from Bodega Harbor to try to relocate the bird, and it was also intensively searched for from the shore. No luck. The same effort was repeated the next day, to no avail. *Mike~*

NEW MEMBERS~ A warm welcome to **Michael R. Martin** and **Laura L. Holms** of Santa Rosa

MANY THANKS, to **Deyea** and **Jack Harper**, as well an un-named donor, for their generous contributions.

MY RICH STORY~ As I was leaving the Saturday banquet at the end of the WFO Conference this year, I realized that I would pass Rich's table. Seeing that he was the focus of a lively conversation, I decided just to slip by, without interrupting. Rich saw me out of the corner of his eye, though, turned away from the group, stood up, and extended his hand. That gesture summed up for me the best of Rich...aside from his genius, he was a friendly, open, kind and generous person, and I will not forget that handshake, nor the short conversation that followed. It was the last time I saw him. -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.

I looked in my heart while the wild swans went over.
 And what did I see I had not seen before?
 Only a question less or a question more;
 Nothing to match the flight of wild birds flying.
 Tiresome heart, forever living and dying,
 House without air, I leave you and lock your door.
 Wild swans, come over the town, come over
 The town again, trailing your legs and crying!

Edna St. Vincent Millay

KITE TALES
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