



Kite Tales

Volume 48 Number 6

February 2013

RROS General Meeting
February 14, 2013, 7:00pm
Laguna Wastewater Treatment Plant

“The Mystery of Bird Song”

David Lukas, naturalist, nature guide, and author of **“Bay Area Birds”**, “the first comprehensive guide to the life history, distribution, and status of the birds of the Bay Area”, will present his popular program on bird song- its secrets and meanings.



***Falcated Duck, Colusa NWR, by
Roger Marlowe***

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: March 14, 2013

"Birders: The Central Park Effect"

The filmmaker, Jeffrey Kimball, will tell us about making this outstanding documentary about four seasons of birding in New York's Central Park.

FIELD TRIPS – February 2013 and beyond:

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 9 - Sunday, March 11, 2013 - Carrizo Plain

The Carrizo Plain is an Important Bird Area covering 281 square miles along the San Andreas Fault between the Central Valley and the coast in southeastern San Luis Obispo County. With a giant seasonal alkali lake, low rolling grasslands and arid scrub, it's a really big "microcosm" of the Central Valley as it was before reclamation by agriculture. With over 10% of California's Sandhill Cranes, big country raptors, Mountain Plovers, Short and Long-eared Owls, Le Conte's Thrashers, Pronghorns and Tule Elk, there's a lot to see. It's one of the most carefully managed areas in California.

Join the club for the weekend of March 9 and 10. We'll be spending Saturday the 9th in Carrizo Plain itself after rocketing down I-5 on Friday the 8th. Sunday I plan to return nearer the coast via either the Santa Maria River or Atascadero, with perhaps another layover night somewhere en route. Participants are welcome to bird their way home with me or hustle back on I-5.

I've put a reserve on 5 contiguous rooms at the Caprice Motel at 222 Kern Street in Taft for the nights of March 8 & 9. To reserve one, call (661) 765-2161. They can also be reached by fax at (661) 765-7911 or online at www.capricemotel.com.

Saturday, June 8 - Sunday June 9, 2013 - Sierra Owling

Join Gene Hunn in Foresthill, Placer County and environs looking for night birds. We'll bird Mosquito Ridge to French Meadows Reservoir by day, then do it all again after dinner for 6 possible owls, including Flammulated, and Poorwill too. Sunday we'll explore Foresthill divide Road to Robinson Flat and maybe hike up Duncan Peak Lookout.

Contact me if you're interested in joining, there are options for a bed in Foresthill or camping on Mosquito Ridge, I'd like to get a handle on folks' preference. Details in upcoming issues of Kite Tales.

The January outing to the San Mateo Coast was held under mostly cerulean skies with limitless visibility along a truly Pacific Ocean. Richard BB Merris and sidekick Rick led us on a successful chase of recently posted rarities. First was a Long-tailed Duck sharing a tidal rip with scoters off Fort Miley in the Presidio of San Francisco. Next we pulled up to a sapsucker riddled Sweetgum/Liquidambar past Pescadero to await the appearance of a Black-throated Blue Warbler. As we arrived, local birder Mark Kudrov appeared on his bicycle to assist and give the bird's recent history and offer other tips of area sightings. The male BTBW didn't keep us waiting long, providing good views and photo opportunities too.

We ate lunch up Stage Road where we swept the Phoebes and added a number of landbirds to our day list. The rest of the trip included coastal sites on our northbound return, with a final stop at Pilar Point at Half Moon Bay. In all, 96 species were logged:

Red-throated Loon, Pacific Loon, Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Clark's Grebe, Brown Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Brandt's Cormorant, Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Canada Goose, Brant, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup, Long-tailed Duck, Surf Scoter, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, White-tailed Kite, Northern Harrier, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, American Coot, Black Oystercatcher, Black-bellied Plover, Killdeer, Snowy Plover, Marbled Godwit, Willet, Black Turnstone, Surfbird, Sanderling, Heermann's Gull, Mew Gull, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Western Gull, Thayer's Gull, Herring Gull, Rhinoceros Auklet, Rock Pigeon, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Red-masked Parakeet, White-throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Eastern Phoebe, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Marsh Wren, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Bushtit, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Pygmy Nuthatch, Steller's Jay, Western Scrub-Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, European Starling, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, California Towhee, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, Great-tailed Grackle, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Lesser Goldfinch, House Sparrow

Participants:

Janet Bosshard, Peter Colasanti, Joan Drangons, Rick LeBaudour, Richard Merriss, Rhio Reigh, Craig Roth

Observations: Dec. 21, 2012-Jan. 20, 2013

Compiled by David A. Hofmann

Bird Specie	Date/s	Location	County.	#	Observer/s	Notes
Ross's Goose	1/15/13	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	1	BoD	
Cackling Goose	12/30/12	Doran Regional Pk	SON	300	RAR, mob	
Cackling Goose	1/09/13	Porto Bodega	SON	1	DAH, BDP	
Eurasian Wigeon	12/28/12	Tolay Lake Reg. Pk	SON	1 m	JoC, mob	
Eurasian Wigeon	12/24/12-1/09/13	Doran Regional Pk	SON	2 m	BDP, JoP, Ji&EIS, mob	
Redhead	12/24/12	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	1 m	BoD	
Red-necked Grebe	12/24/12	Doran Regionl Pk	SON	1	BDP, JoP, Ji&EIS, mob	
Northern Fulmar	1/08/13	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	3	PBC	
American Bittern	1/03-19/13	Spring Lake Reg. Pk	SON	1	BiD, KeW, BeO	
Ferruginous Hawk	1/08/13	Estero Lane	SON	1	PBC	
Rough-legged Hawk	12/20/12	Neil's Island	SON	1	PBC, EuH	

Rough-legged Hawk	12/28/12	Tolay Lake Reg. Pk	SON	3	JoC, mob
Rough-legged Hawk	12/28/12	Salmon Creek x Hwy 1	SON	1	laM, mob
Prairie Falcon	12/28/12	Tolay Lake Reg. Pk	SON	1	JoC, mob
American Avocet	12/26-1/9/13	Doran Regional Pk	SON	2-14	DeF, DeH, JaS, mob
Red Knot	1/01/13	Bodega Bay	SON	1	EuH
Rock Sandpiper	1/14/13	Bodega Marine Lab	SON	1	JaS cont'd fr. 12/2/12
Slaty-backed Gull	1/13/13	Jenner/Russian River	SON	1	ToE, JoS, mob 3 rd cycle
Glaucous Gull	1/13/13	Jenner/Russian River	SON	1	ToE, mob 1 st cycle
Blk-legged Kittiwake	12/30/12	Doran Regional Pk	SON	1 im	RAR, mob
Burrowing Owl	12/30/12	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	1	DAH, mob
Lewis' Woodpecker	12/20/12	Neil's Island	SON	1	PBC, EuH
Yllw-bellied Sapsucker	12/19/12	Sonoma/Lovall Villy Ct	SON	1	ChH
Rd-nped Sapsucker	12/29/12-1/5/13	Sonoma/Vallejo's Home	SON	1	AnC, ChH, ChD, mob
Eastern Phoebe	12/28/12	Tolay Lake Reg. Pk	SON	1	JoC
Ash-throated Fly	1/13/13	Laguna de Santa Rosa Trail	SON	1	LiP
Loggerhead Shrike	12/30/12-1/04/13	Salmon Creek x Hwy1	SON	1	laM, JaS, mob
Loggerhead Shrike	1/01/13	Hudemann's Slough	SON	1	AnR
Loggerhead Shrike	1/13/13	Tolay Lake Reg. Park	SON	1	Co
Palm Warbler	12/26-1/17/13	Doran Regional Pk	SON	1-2	DeF, BDP, RoM, mob
Nashville Warbler	12/30/12-1/11/13	Diekmann's Store	SON	1-2	RAR, BiD, mob
Yellow Warbler	12/24/12-1/9/13	Diekmann's Store	SON	1	BDP, JoP, Ji&EIS
Wilson's Warbler	1/17/13	Diekmann's Store	SON	1 m	DeF
Western Tanager	1/5/13	Sonoma/Boyes Blvd	SON	1 m	ChH
Swamp Sparrow	1/1-19/13	Spring Lake Reg. Pk	SON	1-2	BeO, KeW, BiD, mob
White-throated Spar	1/02/13	Willowside Trail	SON	9+	BiD large #
Bullock's Oriole	1/11/13	Diekmann's Store	SON	1 im	DeF

Observers for this period: Anthony Cermak, Josiah Clark, Peter B. Colasanti, Bill Doyle, Chuck Dresel, Bob Dyer, Todd Esterla, Dea Fried, Christine Hansen, Chris Harbard, Denise Herzberg David A. Hofmann, Eugene Hunn, Roger Marlow, Ian Morrison, Becky Olsen, Benjamin D. Parmeter, John Parmeter, Linda Petrulias, Annette Roth, Ruth Ann Rudesill, Jackie Sones, John Sterling, Jim & Ellen Strauss, Colin Talcroft, Ken Wilson

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

"PISHING with PARMETER"

On September 18, 1999, Rick Lebaudour, Alan Wight, and I set out to do a big day for the PRBO Birdathon. On schedule, as usual, we started with owling on Salmon Creek Road. We then drove up King Ridge Road for more owling, and met the dawn a few miles up, where we turned around. Birding our way back down King Ridge Road, with many stops, we arrived at the mouth of Austin Creek. As always, we checked the pond at Cassini's Ranch, then headed toward Jenner, and the mouth of the Russian River. This was one of our best stops, requiring over half an hour. Next, we checked the ponds at Bridgehaven, before heading down the Sonoma Coast, with stops at Duncan's Landing, Schoolhouse Beach, Salmon Creek overlook and ponds. On to Bodega Bay, for a final look for offshore birds, and then around the harbor to Doran Park. We normally have about 120 species by the time we head inland. We checked Carmody Road pond and the

Petaluma Sewer Ponds, finally ending the day at Shollenberger Park, with **177** species. When I checked, I discovered that this was a new American Birding Association September Big Day record for the United States. I submitted the papers, properly signed, and we hold that record to this day. It was also a Sonoma County Big Day record, although, as Dan Nelson pointed out to me, he, Doug Ellis, and Richard Merriss had seen 176 during a Big Day a year or two earlier. At that time, the Western Grebe had not been split into two species. We were able to count both species, including the "new" Clark's Grebe, by the time we did our count. So, perhaps we share the record with Dan's group, though the rules say that the taxonomy in effect at the time of a Big Day holds sway.

Some highlights from our Big Day include: Sooty Shearwater, American Bittern, Redhead, Merlin, Blue Grouse (now Sooty Grouse), American Golden Plover, Pectoral Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, Marbled Godwit, spotted Owl, Saw-whet Owl, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, and Tri-colored Blackbird.

Mike~

NEW MEMBERS~ RROS welcomes **WAYNE CLARK, III** and **ELLEN BINGEL**.

MANY THANKS, to **Tom McCuller**, for his donation.

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

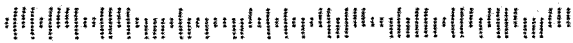
Kite Tales Deadlines: Submit observations to David Hofmann, all other items to Bill Doyle by the 20th of the month.

Tuwee, calls a bird near the house,
 Tuwee, cries another, downhill in the woods.
 No wind, early September, beeches and pines,

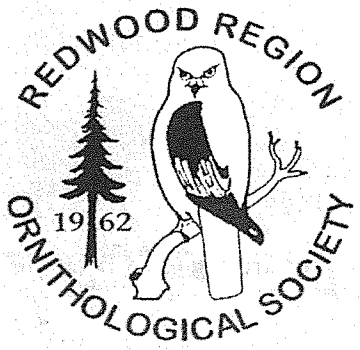
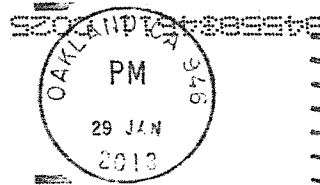
Sumac aflame, tuwee, tuwee, a question and a faint
 But definite response, tuwee, tuwee, as if engaged
 In a conversation expected to continue all afternoon,

Where is?—I'm here?—an upward inflection in
 Query and in response...

—from "Birdcall" by Alicia Suskin Ostriker



KITE TALES
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