



# Kite Tales

Volume 48 Number 7

March 2013

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

## **"Birders: The Central Park Effect"**

At our March 14th meeting, **Jeffrey Kimball** will show his outstanding documentary about four seasons of birding in New York's Central Park. The film stars many beautiful birds, and introduces us to some of the people who regularly bird in the park. Following the showing, Jeff will tell us about his experience making the film.



***Townsend's Warbler, by Tom Reynolds.***  
***Spring Lake RP***

**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: April 11th, 2013**

***"A Carbon Free Big Year"***

**Keith Hansen** will come to our meeting on April 11th to tell about his carbon free big year in which he sought out birds on foot, by bicycle, in a kayak, etc. No fossil fuels were used in this endeavor. Keith is the artist who produced all the illustrations for "Birds of the Sierra Nevada, Their Natural History, Status and Distribution." The book is scheduled to be released in mid-May.

**FIELD TRIPS - March 2013 and beyond:**

**Friday, March <sup>8</sup>9 - Sunday, March <sup>10</sup>11, 2013 - Carrizo Plain HOTEL CHANGE**

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.

There's been a glitch in the accommodations for this trip, so we'll be changing to the Hotel 8 in nearby Maricopa for the nights of March 8 & 9. Maricopa's a virtual ghost town, so we'll be commuting to Taft for meals. To reserve a room, call or Google Motel 8, 600 Poso Street, Maricopa Phone: (661) 769 8291 Fax: (661) 769 8852. Email: motel8@bak.rr.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.

**Redwood Region Ornithological Society  
Wintering Raptors and Waterfowl of Solano and Yolo Counties  
February 9, 2013**

On a crisp winter morning, twenty-two birders joined Terry Colborn for an all-day trek to several birding locales in Solano and Yolo Counties. Heading south from Dixon, our first stop along Cook Lane produced nice views of a **Loggerhead Shrike** as a **Red-shouldered Hawk**

called. In the small marsh nearby we were fortunate to first hear, and then see a **Virginia Rail**, while a male **Common Yellowthroat** posed briefly at the waters' edge. Several **Wilson's Snipe** zipped past us as and disappeared behind the tules. A **Hooded Merganser** was spotted on the nearby farm pond, while a single **River Otter** frolicked in the stream, treating us to some good views of this beautiful carnivore. At **Jepson Prairie Preserve** we observed a nice **Rough-legged Hawk**, first seen soaring, before it landed atop a pole, giving us good diagnostic scope views. A **Great Horned Owl** flushed from the eucalyptus grove, while a pair of **Red-tailed Hawks** performed aerial courtship moves and a pair of **Northern Harrier** flew over the open grasslands, flushing numerous **Western Meadowlarks** in their wake. A docent from UC Davis was gathering aquatic specimens from Olcott Lake. Peter Leveque, the omnipresent teacher that he is, retrieved a vial of **Tadpole Shrimp** from the researcher and passed it around for all to see. We observed several good birds on the lake including, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Black-necked Stilt**, **American Avocet** and a **Western Gull**, an uncommon species in the Central Valley

Stopping along Flannery Road we found as a **Burrowing Owl** hunkered down in its burrow. Our diligent searching failed to produce any **Mt. Plover**, even though they had been reported only a few days prior to our visit. A second **Burrowing Owl** sat obligingly on a nearby fence post, while those with cameras got their shots off. A beautiful **Ferruginous Hawk** was spotted as a **Prairie Falcon** coursed by us but continued in a beeline, as it quickly disappeared in the distance. Other than repeated views of several **American Kestrel** and a pair of **White-tailed Kites**, we didn't see any new raptors. However, we added our twelfth **Logger-head Shrike**. A group of six **Long-billed Curlew**, the largest shorebird in North America, was a nice find of this declining species.

Moving on to the **Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area** in Davis, our first stop put us on a large, mixed contingent of waterfowl in great afternoon light, including, **Cinnamon** and **Green-winged Teal**, **Pintail**, **Northern Shoveler**, **Gadwall**, and **American Wigeon**. Working our way around the auto tour loop we found a **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** feeding side-by-side, affording an excellent field study in the comparison of these two species. As we worked through the shorebirds, including **Dunlin**, **Least Sandpiper**, **Black-bellied Plover** and **Long-billed Dowitcher**, an **American Bitten** was flushed from its secluded spot in the tules. We watched as grinds of several thousand **White-fronted** and **Snow Geese** moved about over the nearby flooded rice fields.

At the **Davis Gull Pond** and adjacent sewer ponds, we worked through the mass of gulls, identifying mostly **California Gulls**, a few **Herring** and **Ring-billed Gulls**, several **Thayer's Gull** and a **Glaucous-winged Gull**. We had several skeins of geese overhead; we picked out a few **Ross's Geese** among the **Snow** and **White-fronted Geese**. Scanning the sewer ponds we spotted several **Redhead** and a few **Canvasback**. The sun was getting low in the western sky as we made our way to our last stop on County Road 35, where we found a **Barn Owl** at rest in a field, and a **Short-eared Owl** perched atop a fence post! The Short-eared took off and began flying moth-like, low over the ground, swooping and turning as it hunted for dinner. We watched in silent jubilation. It was quite the sight in the late afternoon sunlight - a fitting end to a magical day!

We tallied 87 species for our efforts, including 12 raptor species and 17 species of waterfowl.

**Participants:** Ann Ruffer, Jack and Jocelyn Gardner, Anne and Craig Campbell, Eugene and Nancy Hunn, Giel and Maria Witt, Peter "No email - No problem" Leveque, James Fritzhand, Diane Colborn, Don McCarthy, Bill and Rita Bevans, Roger Marlowe, Sandy Richie, Gary and Terry Haag, Mookie Fudemberg, Ron Mallory and Don Reinberg.

Terry Colborn, Leader

**Observations: Jan 21 – Feb 20, 2013****Compiled by David A. Hofmann**

Bird Species	Date/s	Location	County	#	Observer/s	Notes
<b>Tundra Swan</b>	1/21/13	Doran Regional Park	SON	2	DAH, BDP, LaS, DeF	
Eurasian Wigeon	1/25/13	Doran Regional Park	SON	2 m	ScC, mob	
Eurasian Wigeon	2/6/13	Valley Ford/Estero Rd	MRN/SON	1 m	DeF	
Redhead	1/31/13	Hudemann's Slough	SON	30	MuB	
White-winged Scoter	1/21/13	Doran Regional Park	SON	1	DaS	
<b>Black Scoter</b>	2/19/13	Campbell Cove St. Pk	SON	1 m	BoT	
Barrow's Goldeneye	1/21/13	Bodega Bay/Spud Pt	SON	1 f	DaS, ScC	
Red-necked Grebe	1/21-25/13	Bodega Bay/Spud Pt	SON	1	DaS, ScC	
Northern Fulmar	1/25/13	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	1	ScC	
American Bittern	2/13/13	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	BoD	
Ferruginous Hawk	2/5/13	Valley Ford/Estero Rd	MRN/SON	2	BiD, MoF, RoJ	
Ferruginous Hawk	2/9/13	Tolay Lake Reg. Park	SON	1	CoT	
Ferruginous Hawk	2/7/13	Hwy 1 X Wright Hill	SON	1	BOC	
Ferruginous Hawk	2/9/13	Adobe Rd X Hwy 116	SON	1	ChS	
Rough-legged Hawk	2/5/13	Valley Ford/Estero Rd	MRN/SON	1	BiD, MoF, RoJ, DeF	
Merlin	2/5/13	Bodega Hwy	SON	2	BiD, MoF, RoJ	
American Avocet	1/21/13	Doran Regional Park	SON	8	DaS, mob	
<b>Rock Sandpiper</b>	2/10-19/13	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	1	DaS, StG, EdV, RoM, RoS,	
mob						
Glaucous Gull	2/17/13	Salmon Creek Beach	SON	1 ad	MaD	
Black-legged Kittiwake	1/25/13	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	1 im	ScC	
Ancient Murrelet	1/25/13	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	5	ScC	
Burrowing Owl	2/17/13	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	2	BrM	
Short-eared Owl	2/13/13	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	1	BOC	
<b>Eastern Phoebe</b>	1/24/13	East Railroad Ave	SON	1	EuH	
Rock Wren	1/22-2/7/13	Warm Springs Dam	SON	2	KaP, EuH, CIM, AIW	
American Dipper	1/19-26/13	Warm Springs Dam	SON	1	KeG, GoB, KaP, EuH, mob	
Townsend's Solitaire	1/30/13	Sugarloaf Ridge St. Pk	SON	1	EuH	
Nashville Warbler	1/21-2/19/13	Diekmann's Store	SON	1	DaS, PeW, PhH, mob	
Palm Warbler	2/09-12/13	Doran Regional Park	SON	1	DeH, MuB, DAH, BDP, mob	
Wilson's Warbler	1/21-2/10/13	Diekmann's Store	SON	1	DaS, DeF, StG	
Swamp Sparrow	1/31-2/7/13	Salmon Creek Marsh	SON	1-2	PeW, PhH, BOC	
Tri-colored Blackbird	2/1/13	SR12/121 X E. Eighth St.	SON	10 m	EuH	
<b>Cassin's Finch</b>	2/4-5/13	Mt. Hood Reg. Park	SON	6	LiH, EuH, RAR	
<b>Cassin's Finch</b>	2/18/13	Kenwood Yard	SON	1 m	RAR	
Red Crossbill	1/31/13	Bodega Bay	SON	30	PeW, PhH	

**Observers for this period:** Gordon Beebe, Murray Berner, Scott Carey, Matthew Dodder, Bill Doyle, Bob Dyer, Dea Freid, Mookie Fudenberg, Karen German, Steve Granholm, Phil Henderson, Denise Herzberg, David A. Hofmann, Lisa Hug, Eugene Hunn, Robert Jackson, Claudia Mayfield, Roger Marlowe, Bruce Mast, Brook O'Connor, Kathy Parker, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Ruth Ann Rudesill, Chris Selvig, Dave Shuford, Lang Stevenson, Ron Storey, Colin Talcroft, Bob Toleno, Ed Vine, Pete White, Alan Wight

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

**"PISHING with PARMETER"**

We had a wonderful sighting on the NE corner of the Cordell Banks on a 7/19/94 trip with leader Rich Stallcup. Rich spoke to me, saying that the albatross seated on the water behind the boat had a great deal of "light" color on it. I immediately thought to myself that the Black-footeds get lighter as they age. Rich asked the Captain to turn the boat around and head back - the light colored albatross looked to Rich to be a light-mantled Sooty Albatross, now called Light-mantled Albatross. A cogener can be difficult to distinguish. Fortunately, there was an Australian (Chris Corben) on board who said, "Look at the color of the sulcus on the lower mandible." It was obviously blue, which allowed identification of the bird with certainty. There was a considerable celebration by all enjoying the bird. Other observers included Scott Terrell, Alan Wight, David Hofmann, and Joe Morlan. This was the first record of this species in the Northern Pacific Ocean. The only drawback to the sighting was the fact that the bird was in Marin County water. *Mike~*

**Redwood Region Ornithological Society** ([www.rros.org](http://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	<a href="mailto:shortbill@comcast.net">shortbill@comcast.net</a>	483-8773
Vice Pres - Terry Haag- 1340 Big Plum Dr, Sebastopol, 95472	<a href="mailto:teresitahaag@comcast.net">teresitahaag@comcast.net</a>	823-8527
Secretary - Mike Nelligan- 4663 Sullivan Way, Santa Rosa, 95409	<a href="mailto:mnbudymn@sonic.net">mnbudymn@sonic.net</a>	539-1897
Treasurer - Don Howard- 979 Hogwarts Circle, Petaluma, 94954	<a href="mailto:binkybunji2@comcast.net">binkybunji2@comcast.net</a>	637-0868

**Committee Chairs**

Field Trips - Peter B Colasanti- 524 East D St, Petaluma 94954	<a href="mailto:peter_colasanti@yahoo.com">peter_colasanti@yahoo.com</a>	763-2450
Observations- David Hofmann 2021 Pioneer Wy #47, Santa Rosa, 95403	<a href="mailto:nnamfoh@comcast.net">nnamfoh@comcast.net</a>	546-0325
Christmas Count - Bill Doyle- 1966 Belmont Ct, SRosa, 95404	<a href="mailto:shortbill@comcast.net">shortbill@comcast.net</a>	483-8773
Kite Tales - Bill Doyle 1966 Belmont Ct, Santa Rosa, 95404	<a href="mailto:shortbill@comcast.net">shortbill@comcast.net</a>	483-8773

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

Hope is the thing with feathers  
 That perches in the soul,  
 And sings the tune without the words,  
 And never stops at all,

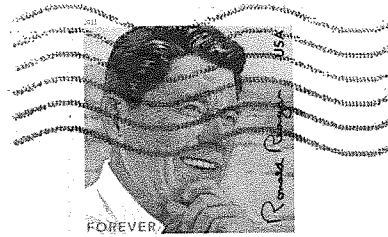
And sweetest in the gale is heard;  
 And sore must be the storm  
 That could abash the little bird  
 That kept so many warm.

-from "Hope is the thing with feathers" by Emily Dickinson

**KITE TALES**  
**979 Hogwarts Circle**  
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