



Kite Tales

Volume 48 Number 9

May 2013

**RROS General Meeting
May 9, 2013, 6:00pm
Sugarloaf Ridge State Park**

“Annual Potluck and Bird Walk”

Bring your favorite dish to share, and your binoculars, and join us for the annual potluck picnic dinner, installation of officers, and evening bird walk. After the dinner meeting, we'll be looking for breeding migrants, such as Common Poorwill (not so common), Olive-sided Flycatcher, and many others. See directions below, for this meeting only.



***Bullock's Oriole, Spring Lake,
by Tom Reynolds***

Directions to the May Potluck meeting: From Hwy 101, take Hwy 12 East toward Kenwood. After passing Oakmont and Lawndale Rd, look for Adobe Canyon Rd., and the Sugarloaf State Park sign. Follow Adobe Canyon Rd. to the dirt parking lot, near the picnic tables. From Sonoma, look for Adobe Canyon Rd. on the right, just north of Kenwood. Meet at the picnic tables across from the parking lot at 6:00 pm.

Save the Date: Thursday, September 12, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

Potluck/Picnic Meeting and Bird Walk at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park. Meet in the picnic area across from the Day Use Parking Lot. See page one, above, for directions.

FIELD TRIPS – April 2013 and beyond:

Saturday, May 11, 2013 - Mines Road

Tell Mom you'll see her Sunday, but Saturday you'll be birding Mines Road. It runs south from Livermore along the eastern edge of Alameda County and can yield such surprises as Greater Roadrunner. Ruth Rudesill is well connected by personal history to Alameda County and has volunteered to lead this one. Meet at the Petaluma Park n' Ride at 6:00 AM or the intersection of Tesla and Mines Road (or the first pullover heading south from there on Mines Road) in southeast Livermore at 7:30 AM. Sorry about the early start, but that's when the birds are. Email me at peter_colasanti@yahoo.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. Official overnight headquarters will be at a very nice accommodating B-and-B 13 miles up FR 88 above Foresthill at 5100 feet elevation, the Christmas Tree Vineyard Lodge www.christmastreevineyardlodge.com (916-59-0141). They have six rooms, each with a queen bed and included full bathroom, plus three roll-away beds that could accommodate a third person in three of the rooms for a total of 15. The charge for each double room is \$100/night including breakfast and the facilities (lounge, kitchen, swimming pool). If you'd like one for just Saturday or Friday too, Gene suggests you contact them soon. There's also a forest service campground at Mumford Bar (about a mile above the B&B) or self-contained "primitive" camping along FR 96 (the Mosquito Ridge Rd.) at Big Oak Flat in the thick of the owling area (you can hear them while you sleep; I plan to.) Wherever you plan to stay, or even if you just breeze in for the day, meet at the B&B at 9:00 AM after breakfast on Saturday, June 8. We'll bird past noon, take a siesta, then go owling into Saturday night. Sunday we'll sleep in, then convene for some daytime birding after brunch. I have an extended proposed itinerary from Gene for this. Drop me an email if you'd like me to forward it.

Late August or early September - Pelagic Trip

Last year's pelagic trip was such a success we figured we'd do it all over again, only earlier. This one's still a work in progress, but the plan is to ride with Captain Rick in *Pterodroma* season, probably hitting the usual North Bay deep water hotspots and looking for the edge of warm water and the possible glories attracted to it (think 5 species of Storm-petrels, dream of Cook's Petrel). I hope to get a weekend date for this, if it's not too late, and will be sending out a notice only by email to club members with sign up details as soon as they become known.

King Ridge Road Field Trip Report:

The King Ridge outing on Saturday April 13 was led by Prez Bill Doyle, with a strong assist by Helen Kochenderfer. They know the road well and many of their chosen stops yielded good activity of neotropical migrants. Shortly after lunch, the anticipated winds picked up and the birding slowed down, so we broke relatively early and all birded our separate ways back home. Forty-four species were seen by the collected group prior to our parting:

Pied-billed Grebe, Wood Duck, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Mountain Quail, American Coot, Band-tailed Pigeon, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Allen's Hummingbird, Acorn Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Violet-green Swallow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Bewick's Wren, Western Bluebird, American Robin, Bushtit, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Oak Titmouse, Steller's Jay, Western Scrub-Jay, Common Raven, European Starling, Hutton's Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Cassin's Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Spotted Towhee, California Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Black-headed Grosbeak, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, Lesser Goldfinch.

Attendees: Dennis Beall, Peter Colasanti, Bill Doyle, Jocelyn Gardner, Gary & Terry Haag, David A. Hofmann, Don Howard, Helen Kochenderfer, Richard Merriss, Gerry Pacis, Monica Schwalbenberg-Peña

Observations: Mar 21 - Apr 20, 2013**Compiled by David A. Hofmann**

| Bird Species | Date/s | Location | County. # | Observer/s |
|------------------------------|---------|------------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| <u>Notes</u> | | | | |
| Grtr White-frntd Goose | 3/27/13 | Sonoma-Marin Frngnds | SON 1 | ChS |
| Grtr White-frntd Goose | 4/04/13 | Adobe Road | SON 14 | AW |
| Eurasian Wigeon | 3/24/13 | Hudeman's Slough | SON 1 | ChH |
| Blue-winged Teal | 4/19/13 | Hudeman's Slough | SON 1m 1f | BoB |
| Brown Pelican | 4/08/13 | Shollenberger Park | SON 1 | ToB |
| Brown Booby | 4/07/13 | Bodega Bay | SON 1 | SuP, LoK found dead |
| American Bittern | 4/06/13 | Tolay Lake Reg. Park | SON 3 | ToB |
| White-faced Ibis | 4/17/13 | Ellis Creek Ponds | SON 1 | ToR, CoT |
| Bald Eagle | 3/27/13 | Ida Clayton Road | SON 1 ad | RAR |
| Bald Eagle | 4/08/13 | Shollenberger Park | SON 1 imm | ToB |
| Merlin | 4/06/13 | Bohemia Ecol. Preserve | SON 1 | DaB, LaB |
| Peregrine Falcon | 4/14/13 | Westside Regional Pk | SON 2 | ScC |
| Common Gallinule | 4/01/13 | Salmon Creek ponds | SON 2 | ScC |
| Pacific Golden Plover | 3/23/13 | Shollenberger Park | SON 1 | BiD, HeK, DoK |
| Snowy Plover | 3/28/13 | Doran Regional Park | SON 14 | CoT, mob |
| Solitary Sandpiper | 4/02/13 | west of Petaluma | SON 1 | EuH |
| Solitary Sandpiper | 4/20/13 | Wohler Bridge Reg. Pk | SON 1 | LiH, mob |
| Red Knot | 4/14/13 | Westside Regional Pk | SON 7 | ScC |
| Caspian Tern | 3/28/13 | Doran Regional Park | SON 4 | CoT, mob |
| Vaux's Swift | 4/06/13 | Santa Rosa Creek | SON 3 | DoK |
| Rufous Hummingbird | 4/14/13 | Diekmann's Store | SON 1 m | ScC |
| Red-breasted Sapskr | 3/23/13 | Duncan's Mills | SON 3 | BiD, HeK, DoK |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|-----|--------|--------------------|
| Purple Martin | 4/06/13 | upper Pine Flat Road | SON | 4 | DoK, BoS |
| No. Rgh-wgd Swallow | 3/23/13 | Duncan's Mills | SON | 1000 | DaB |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | 3/27/13 | Ida Clayton Road | SON | 1 | RAR |
| Nashville Warbler | 4/01-14/13 | Diekmann's Store | SON | 1 | ScC continuing |
| Western Tanager | 3/28/13 | Fountain Grove Pkwy | SON | 1 m | AW over-wintering? |
| Grasshopper Sparrow | 3/30/13 | Taylor Mtn Reg. Park | SON | 1 | BOC, OOC |
| Grasshopper Sparrow | 4/04/13 | Sonoma Mountain Rd | SON | 1 | AW |
| Grasshopper Sparrow | 4/14/13 | Pepperwood Preserve | SON | 3 m | LoK |
| Great-tailed Grackle | 4/02-03/13 | Ellis Creek Pond "D" | SON | 7 m 2f | BoD |
| Great-tailed Grackle | 4/19/13 | Jenner Visitor Center | SON | 1 m | LiH |
| Hooded Oriole | 3/27/13 | Fountain Grove Pkwy | SON | 1 | AW |
| Bullock's Oriole | 3/26/13 | Windsor yard | SON | 1 | RiB |
| Red Crossbill | 4/14/13 | Pepperwood Preserve | SON | 2 f | LoK |

Observers for this period: Dave Barry, Bob Battigan, Rita Bevans, Tony Briggs, Larry Broderick, Scott Carey, Bill Doyle, Bob Dyer, Chris Harbard, Eugene Hunn, Logan Kahle, Don Kirker, Helen Kochenderfer, Brook O'Connor, Orion O'Connor, Sue Pemberton, Ruth Ann Rudesill, Tom Reynolds, Chris Selvig, Bob Speckles, Colin Talcroft, Alan Wight

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

"PISHING with PARMETER"

I arrived home at noon, Friday, 12/19/78, having the afternoon off. Sally advised me that there was a Smith's Longspur at the Hall Ranch at Point Reyes. It was a first CA record for the species. Having the afternoon free, I immediately left for Point Reyes. Unfortunately, our son, John, was unable to go. Arriving at the Hall Ranch, I found a large number of CA birders; I joined this group which was watching the bird, and had it pointed out to me. Also, the field marks were clearly shown to me. I watched the bird for 15-20 minutes, following which it flew away, scared by a close approaching photographer. Even with considerable searching, it was not located again that day. However, I was delighted to get a "lifer."

Word was out the following morning that the bird was again present. Being Saturday, John left at once to try for it. Upon arrival at the Hall Ranch, he was surprised to pull up behind a car with the license plate "OAX MEX" – he recognized this as Laurie Binford's car. (Laurie did his doctoral thesis on the status and distribution of birds in the Mexican state of Oaxaca.) John wondered why Laurie was there as he was aware that Laurie had seen the bird the previous day, and Laurie never went twice, always getting the bird ID on his first visit. John joined the group of 7 or 8 people watching the bird. Laurie kept saying to John, "Look at the hind claw." After about 45 minutes of studying the bird, Laurie announced, "It's a lark, not a Smith's Longspur!" An English birder who was present at the time agreed, saying, "It's a Skylark." And so it turned out to be.

I was told by several birders who had been there the first day that they had figured out the correct identification on their way home. The bird came back to the same location for seven winters. At times it was giving a Skylark call in flight. Superb photos were obtained. The best were by Albert Ghiorso (who was director of the research team at UC Berkeley that discovered 12 new elements).

I saw this bird many times subsequently but was always a bit chagrined that I had initially taken the bait, hook, line, and sinker, as had many of CA's serious birders. *Mike~*

Many Thanks... to **Keith Hanson** for the very entertaining and informative presentation of his carbon-free big year, as well as his contribution of one of his wonderful limited edition bird prints to be raffled off, with the proceeds going to **RROS**. Details in the next issue of **Kite Tales**.

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.

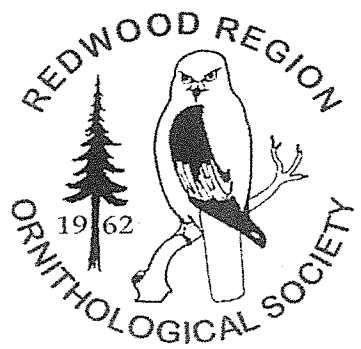
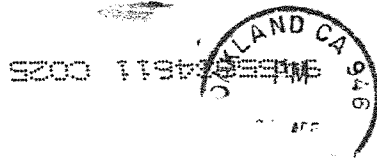


Then it picks up one stem leg. This takes time.
And sets it down just beyond the other,
no splash, breath of a ripple, goes on
slowly across the silt, mud, algae-
throttled surface, through sedge grass,
to stand to its knees in water turning
gray now that afternoon is evening.

Now that afternoon is evening
the gray heron turns blue, bluer than sky,
bluer than the mercury blue-black still pond.

-from "The Blue" by David Baker

KITE TALES
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