



Kite Tales

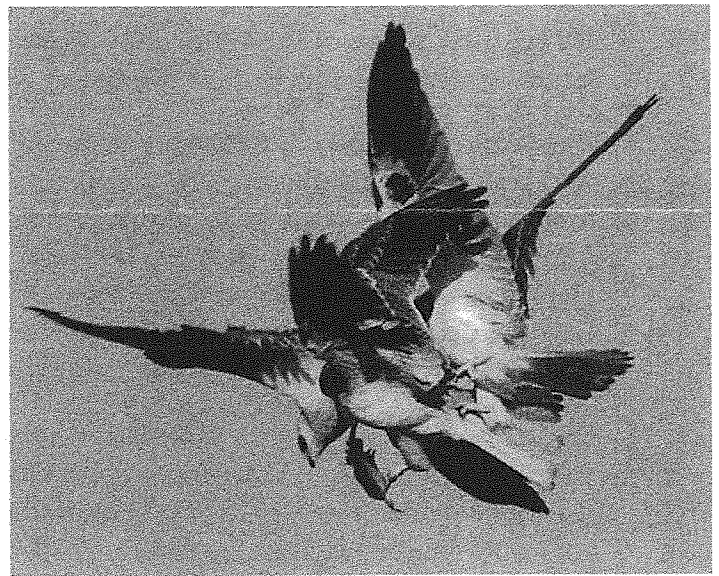
Volume 49 Number 1

September 2013

**RROS General Meeting
Sept 12, 2013, 6:00pm
Sugarloaf Ridge State Park**

"Annual Fall Potluck and Bird Walk"

Bring your favorite dish to share, and your binoculars, and join us for the annual fall kickoff potluck picnic dinner and evening bird walk. After the dinner meeting, we'll be looking for lingering local breeders, out-of-area migrants moving through, and many others. See directions below, for this meeting only.



"Food Fight", White-tailed Kites at A Place to Play Park, by Tom Reynolds

Directions to the September 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, October 10th, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

Andrew Rush, a graduate student working at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at the University of California in Berkeley, will give a presentation on his study of "Western" Flycatcher vocalization, across the bird's range. Was this a good split?

FIELD TRIPS – September 2013 and beyond:

September 18, 2013, Wednesday: Rodeo Lagoon and Hawk Hill in southernmost Marin County. Led by Gene Hunn (707-981-7301; enhunn323@comcast.net) with guidance from local expert Don Reinberg. This is near the peak of the rare Broad-winged Hawk migration and, depending on the weather, could produce a large number and good variety of raptors. Rodeo Lagoon is a major vagrant trap and also attracts shorebirds and offers views offshore (expect to hike a mile or two around the lagoon). Time permitting, we could stop on the way home to check the Corte Madera Marsh mud flats. Meet to carpool at 8 AM at the Petaluma Fair Grounds parking lot, or at 8:45 AM at the Rodeo Lagoon Visitor center (take exit #442 off US101 just north of the Golden Gate Bridge, then loop back under 101 onto Bunker Rd. heading west). Finish by mid-afternoon. Heavy rains cancel.

September 28, 2013, Saturday: Bodega Bay Hot Spots for migrants. Led by Dan Nelson (bidsurf64@sbcglobal.net; 479-2918), who has spotted more rare migrants here than anyone. Meet at the big dirt parking lot on Westside Road at Bayflat Rd, 8:30 AM. We will check such famed vagrant traps as Hole-in-the-Head, Owl Canyon, the Rail Ponds, and Diekmann's Overlook; we plan also to check Bodega Head for rocky shore species and pelagics and the bay mudflats for shorebirds and whatever else. Bring a lunch or have some chowder at Spud Point. Heavy rains cancel.

Mid-October, 2013, on a Monday: Check out San Francisco's hot spots for migrants, vagrant or otherwise, plus shore points for shore and seabirds; refine your San Francisco County list. Led by local expert Dominik Mosur (Dominik Mosur [polskatata@yahoo.com]). Heavy rains cancel. Details TBA.

November 19, 2013, Tuesday: Field Trip to the Pope Valley area of Napa County. Meet at 8 AM at the corner of Hwy 128 and Silverado Trail, Napa Valley. We will bird the south end of Lake Hennessey (bathroom stop at boat launch) and then travel to Pope Valley. Bird the Cedar Roughs Wildlife Area and local farm ponds. Then to the north end of Lake Berryessa for lunch. In early afternoon, hit Knoxville Rd for possible Lewis's Woodpeckers. Other possibles: Hooded Merganser, waterfowl and grebes, Bald Eagles and otters. Bring lunch and money for parking. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Ruth Rudesill, 707-833-6026 or ruthier@sonic.net.

December 8, Sunday: Visit highlights of the Mendocino County coast, led by local expert and noted nature photographer, Ron LeValley. With luck we might see famous Big Al, the Laysan Albatross, if he returns to Punta Arena. We will also visit the Point Arena lighthouse,

Van Damme State Park, picturesque Mendocino town (and headlands), Fort Bragg, and MacKerricher State Park. We have high hopes for Gray Jay, Harlequin Duck, Black Scoter, Rock Sandpiper, and Ancient Murrelet. Meet 8 AM to carpool at Sebastopol P&R; meet Ron at Punta Arena ca. 9 AM. Added bonus: visit Ron's photography studio in Fort Bragg. Return via SR 128 through Cloverdale. Heavy rains cancel.

Field Trip Report:

June 8-9, 2013, Foresthill/Mosquito Ridge/Duncan Peak in the Sierra Nevada foothills east of Auburn.

We had high hopes of at least hearing the elusive Flammulated Owl after Hunn located an accessible calling male two weeks before. However, on a beautifully warm, calm, dark night we heard just a few excited Western Screech-Owls on the mid-portion of Mosquito Ridge Road and deep silence everywhere else. At midnight we retired to our lodgings at the Christmas Tree Vineyard Lodge B&B, 13 miles above Foresthill, to sleep it off.

Nevertheless, the day-time birds, massive trees, and bright flowers and the comfortable accommodations at the B&B (complete with hummingbird feeders) made for an exciting exploration in good company of this nearest Sierra Nevada locale.

We gathered in Foresthill Saturday morning, birding the local cemetery early (nice looks at Hermit Warblers here), then made our way up Mosquito Ridge Road with frequent stops at likely-seeming spots where we heard Mountain Quail and enjoyed fine looks at Canyon Wrens and Black-throated Gray Warblers. For lunch we stopped at the Placer Big Trees Grove (where the stake-out Flammulated Owl wasn't that evening). We hiked down and around the loop through this northernmost grove of Giant Sequoias (among huge Incense Cedars, Sugar Pines, Douglas and White Firs), encountering a Red-breasted Sapsucker, Pileated Woodpecker, Hammond's Flycatcher, and Pacific Wren, to name a few. After lunch we drove as far as the French Meadows Reservoir, checking burned areas for Calliope Hummingbird, White-headed Woodpecker, Green-tailed Towhee, Fox and Chipping Sparrows, and riparian habitat for Dusky Flycatcher, Cassin's Vireos, and Nashville, Yellow, and MacGillivray's Warblers. We decided to attempt a short-cut back to the B&B on Foresthill Divide Road via a rough stretch connecting to Robinson Flat.

We revisited the high meadow at Robinson Flat more thoroughly Sunday morning, after a leisurely breakfast at the Lodge. Several of us hiked from the meadow to the fire lookout on the summit of Duncan Peak at 7116 feet elevation, meeting the lookout volunteer on his first day of the season. This high country offered Olive-sided Flycatchers, raven patrols, Mountain Chickadees, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creepers, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Townsend's Solitaires, Hermit Thrushes, Western Tanagers, Cassin's Finches, and singing Lincoln's Sparrows in the meadow at Robinson Flat.

Floral highlights included: Sierra gooseberry and Sierra currant, huckleberry oak (on Duncan Peak), western azalea, Macloskey's violet, Gray's lovage, Leichtlin's mariposa lily, mountain jewelflower, dusky horkelia, fawn lily, Pacific starflower, Torrey's (miniature) monkeyflower, mountain heather, scarlet gilia, checker bloom, prince's pine, bush monkeyflower, pine violet, Hartweg's iris, pretty face (a.k.a. golden brodiaea), woolly mule's ears, velvety stickseed, and wild hyacinth, to name just a few we made note of.

Participants: Gene & Nancy Hunn, Janet Bosshard, Bill Doyle, Dea Fried, Helen Kochenderfer, Andy LaCasse, Elaine Pruett, Craig and Annette Roth, and Monica Schwalbenberg-Peña.

Observations: Summer, 2013**Compiled by David A. Hofmann**

Bird Species	Date/s	Location	County.	#	Observer/s	Notes
Grtr Wht-fronted Goose	5/19/13	Ellis Crk Ponds	SON	1	LeB	
Grtr Wht-fronted Goose	7/01/13	Laguna de Santa Rosa	SON	1	LiH	
Brant	7/22/13	Bodega harbor	SON	11	DAH, BDP	worn plumage
Common Goldeneye	6/05-7/27/13	Jenner/Russian River	SON	1 f	BDP, JP, SaP, HeS	
Common Goldeneye	6/14-8/4/13	Schollenberger Park	SON	1 f	RoS, DaA, LiH, mob	
Common Goldeneye	7/01/13	Jenner/Russian River	SON	1 m	EuH	
Clark's Grebe	8/01/13	Bodega harbor	SON	1	DaE	
Brown Booby	5/22-27/13	Campbell Cove	SON	1	JoL, mob	1st live cty rcd
American Bittern	8/09/13	Tolay Lake Reg. Park	SON	1	EuH, NaH	
White-faced Ibis	5/13/13	Hudemann's Slough	SON	1	ToB	
Swainson's Hawk	4/28/13	Middle Two Rock Rd	SON	1 f	EuH	
Swainson's Hawk	5/01/13	Laguna de Santa Rosa	SON	1	ScC	
Swainson's Hawk	5/06/13	Hwy 121/Arnold Drive	SON	3	DoM	
Swainson's Hawk	5/21/13	Laguna de Santa Rosa	SON	1	RoJ	
Swainson's Hawk	5/24-27/13	Hwy 37	SON	2	DoM	
Swainson's Hawk	6/15/13	Salmon Creek Road	SON	1	BiD, mob	
Pacific Golden Plover	8/13-16/13	Schollenberger Park	SON	1	LiH, DaM, NoO	
Snowy Plover	8/11/13	Doran Regional Park	SON	8	LiH, mob	
Black-necked Stilt	5/13/13	Doran Regional Park	SON	1	DeF	
American Avocet	7/31/13	Bodega harbor	SON	1	DeF, KaF	
Solitary Sandpiper	4/26/13	Laguna de Santa Rosa	SON	1	ScC, mob	
Wandering Tattler	4/26/13	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	2	LiH, mob	
Wandering Tattler	7/26-27/13	Doran Regional Park	SON	1	DAH, BDP, JoP, RiB	
Wandering Tattler	7/26-27/13	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	2	DAH, BDP, JoP, RiB	
Wandering Tattler	8/11-13/13	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	1	LiH, ChH, mob	
Long-billed Curlew	7/22/13	Doran Regional Park	SON	1	DAH, BDP	
Red Knot	5/07/13	Bodega harbor	SON	7	DoR	
Red Knot	4/26/13	Port 'o Bodega	SON	3	LiH, mob	
Red Knot	7/22-23/13	Bodega harbor	SON	1	BDP, DeF, WiC	
Red Knot	8/06/13	Doran Regional Park	SON	1	LiH	
Semipalmated SA	7/22-23/13	Schollenberger Park	SON	1	LiH, RoS	
Semipalmated SA	8/04/13	Schollenberger Park	SON	1 juv	LiH, mob	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	8/06/13	Doran Regional Park	SON	1	LiH	

Baird's Sandpiper	4/26/13	Millerick Road	SON	1	EuH
Baird's Sandpiper	8/03/13	Salmon Creek Beach	SON	1	JaS
Stilt Sandpiper	7/10-14/13	Schollenberger Park	SON	1	ScC, CIP, mob
Parasitic Jaeger	8/11/13	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	1	ScC
Parasitic Jaeger	8/13/13	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	2	ChH
Franklin's Gull	5/22-25/13	Doran Regional Park	SON	1 ad	JeL, mob
Royal Tern	7/24/13	Doran Regional Park	SON	1	BiG, 1st county record
Marbled Murrelet	7/26/13	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	1	BDP, JP
Rhinoceros Auklet	5/31/13	Goat Rock State Park	SON	5	LiH
Rhinoceros Auklet	6/07/13	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	6	ScC
Rhinoceros Auklet	7/08/13	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	3	BDP, DAH
Barred Owl	5/28-6/18/13	Stewart's Point Road	SON	2	JoW, KeJ, RAR
Common Nighthawk	6/18-30/13	Salt Point State Park	SON	2	RAR, BiD, DoK, EuH, NaH
Black Swift	5/12/13	Sebastopol yard	SON	1	ScC
Black Swift	6/14/13	Larkfield yard	SON	1	DoS
Rufous Hummingbird	6/23/13	Occidental yard	SON	1 m	MiH
Rufous Hummingbird	7/19/13	Bodega Marine Lab	SON	1 f	JaS
Hammond's Flycatcher	4/21/13	Pine Flat Road	SON	1	AW
Hammond's Flycatcher	4/24/13	Ida Clayton Road	SON	1	RAR
Dusky Flycatcher	5/29/13	Ida Clayton Road	SON	1	RAR
Mountain Chickadee	6/05/13	R. L. Stevenson St. Pk	SON/NAP	2	EuH
Nashville Warbler	8/12/13	Bodega Hd/Owl Cnyn	SON	1	MiH
Hermit Warbler	7/30/13	Bodega Hd/Owl Cnyn	SON	2	PhH, PeW, DeF, WiC
Hermit Warbler	7/30/13	Bodega Marine Lab	SON	1	JaS
American Redstart	6/06/13	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	1 m	DaN
American Redstart	6/08/13	Bayflat/Whaleship Rd	SON	1 m	PBC
American Redstart	6/10/13	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	1 m	DaN
Ovenbird	6/10/13	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	1	RAR
White-throated SP	4/22/13	Petaluma yard	SON	1	JaH
White-throated SP	4/23/13	Willowside Rd	SON	4	DoK
Rose-breasted Grsbk	5/14/13	Hwy128/IdaClaytonRd	SON	1 m	RAR
Rose-breasted Grsbk	6/09-10/13	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	1 m	DaN
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	6/14/13	Larkfield yard	SON	1 m	DoS
Tri-colored Blackbird	4/24/13	Hwy 128/Spenser Rd	SON	3+	RAR
Tri-colored Blackbird	5/19/13	Lakeville Hwy/"Gate 9"	SON	400+	EmS, RuS
Great-tailed Grackle	5/14/13	Bodega Marine Lab	SON	1	JaS
Lawrence's Goldfinch	4/24/13	Pine Flat Road	SON	1	JaH

Observers for this period: David Assmann, Rita Bevans, Len Blumin, Tony Briggs, Scott Carey, Wireless Chris, Peter B. Colasanti, Bill Doyle, Daniel Edelstein, Kathy Francone, Dea Freid, Chris Harbard, Mike Heffernon, Phil Henderson, David A. Hofmann, Jared Hubbell, Lisa Hug, Eugene Hunn, Nancy Hunn, Robert Jackson, Ken Jewett, Don Kirker, Jeri Langham, John Luther, Dan Maxwell, Dominik Mosur, Dan Nelson, Nora Olema, Benjamin D. Parmeter, John Parmeter, Sally Parmeter, Claire Peasley, Don Reinberg, Ruth Ann Rudesill, Rusty Scaff, Doug Shaw, Heidi Simms, Jackie Sones, Ron Storey, Emilie Strauss, Pete White, Alan Wight, Jon Winter

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

"PISHING with PARMETER"

RROS had a fieldtrip to outer Point Reyes on 9/17/05. We had seen a Chestnut-sided Warbler at the Mendoza Ranch. News arrived about midafternoon that a Yellow-billed Cuckoo had been found in Owl Canyon at Bodega Harbor by Cindy and Leslie Lieurance. A hasty decision was made to adjourn the fieldtrip, and we reassembled at Owl Canyon. Shortly after our arrival there, the bird flew to the eucalyptus grove just north of Owl Canyon. Several people saw the bird in flight (looks like a falcon). The bird went into the eucalyptus grove, but was not seen again. I arrived the following morning at the grove, 9/18/05. Richard Merriss greeted me, saying, "The bird is in view." And there it was, on the east side of the grove, perched on a bare branch, where it remained for about 30-40 minutes. Many people saw it, and wonderful photos were obtained. Rick LeBaudour got a terrific photo with his new camera. He subsequently sent me a copy of this photo which shows excellent detail. A first county record for me.

This bird nested in Sonoma County at one time. There are records in the early 1990s for Laguna de Santa Rosa, about 5 miles south of Sebastopol. Grinnell and Wythe, in Directory to the Bird-Life of the San Francisco Bay Region, point this out. Dawson talks of nesting in the same area in Birds of California. There are few other records for the county: (1) A bird was observed in July, 1988, in riparian woodland along West Dry Creek Road (see Sonoma County Breeding Bird Atlas). (2) On 7/2/96 a window-kill bird was found in the town of Bodega by A. Cassidy. This bird was identified by Bruce Elliot of the California Fish and Game.

Yellowbilled Cuckoo has become very rare everywhere in California. The Sacramento River riparian area, which once hosted numerous birds of this species, has very few recent records despite intensive searching. Perhaps the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation will lure it back into Sonoma County with their current habitat restoration program. **Mike~**

"On Birds"

One sunny morning, long ago, in the Lee Metcalf Wildlife Refuge, south of Missoula MT, I heard a familiar vocalization, and looked up to see a familiar bird, and knew I had a lifer. As I followed the bird from branch to branch, I was aware that another person had approached me. I looked over, beaming with the smile that a lifer brings, to see an older fellow with a cane, and a pair of well-worn bins around his neck. "Got something great?" he asked, smiling. "A lifer!" I said, "Cordilleran Flycatcher!" Right away, his expression changed...he rolled his eyes. "That's a load of ****", he said, "There's no such bird. Dumbest damn split yet." He limped off, mumbling. I learned later that the doubter was a retired, and locally revered, ornithologist from the University of Montana, in Missoula. I wasn't about to drop a new bird from my list, just because of the doubts of some behind-the-times old grump. I let it go.

Since then, I've learned that there are a lot of others who feel the same way about the Pacific/Cordilleran split, including some of our most respected local birders, and, lately, I've been trying to return to using "Western" Flycatcher to refer the bird in question...hard though it is. Recently, I've become aware of the research done by **Andrew Rush**, of UC Berkeley, whose doctoral dissertation addresses this exact question, and who will be presenting the results of that research to us at the October meeting. Don't miss it! **Ed.**

RROS ANNUAL REPORT, 7/1/12 – 6/30/13

Beginning Bank Balance (July 1, 2012) \$2,096.92

INFLOWS

Pelagic Trip – October, 2012	\$2,393.00
Membership Donations	\$ 487.00
Book Sales	\$1,451.20
Check List Sales	\$ 46.00
RROS Ball Cap Sales	\$ 90.00

TOTAL INFLOWS \$6,072.20

OUTFLOWS

DONATION – PRBO Conservation Science	\$ 600.00
Software Programs	\$ 376.16
Office & Shipping	\$ 25.31
Pelagic Trip – October, 2012	\$1,250.00
Pelagic Trip – October, 2012	\$1,500.00
Postage	\$ 229.98
Printing Newsletter	\$ 575.10
RROS Ball Caps	\$ 239.60
Education	\$ 675.00
Sales Tax	\$ 77.00

TOTAL OUTFLOWS \$5,548.15

NET CASH FLOW FOR FISCAL YEAR \$ 524.05

ENDING BANK BALANCE (June 30, 2013) \$3,430.97

Donald K. Howard, Jr. – Treasurer (July 20, 2013)

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
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Committee Chairs

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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.

“That Bird”

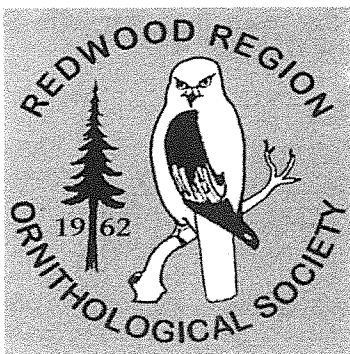
that bird,
(unabstractly)
flapping frantically
hovering to catch the shaft
& our attention
“one with light”
& not only
from millions of miles
projected through ozone
sifted by tree leaves
in a breeze

Just so

I know that bird!

Bill Vartnow

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