



Kite Tales

Volume 49 Number 2

October 2013

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

“Western” Flycatcher Vocalization

Andrew Rush, of UC Berkeley, will present the intriguing results of his doctoral research into the vocalizations of “Western” (Pacific Slope/Cordilleran) Flycatchers across their combined range, with implications relating to our current understanding of their interrelationships.



*Canada Warbler, Campbell Cove,
By Rick LeBaudour*

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 October General Meeting : 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 Hwy 101.

Save the Date: Thursday, November 14th, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

"Birds of Climate-Change Concern"

Tom Gardali of Point Blue (formerly PRBO) will report on a study of California's at-risk birds. The study was conducted by Point Blue and California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

FIELD TRIPS – September 2013 and beyond:

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 experts. Meet at Petaluma Fairgrounds parking lot, at 8:00am for carpools, or at 9 or so (depending on traffic) in San Francisco at Fort Mason Conservancy Headquarters in Bldg. 201. Heavy rains cancel. For details, contact, Gene Hunn, <enhunn323@comcast.net>

October 27, 2013, Sunday: Tolay Lake Regional Park. Meet to carpool at the boat launch lot just south of Papas at 8 AM. Proceed up Cannon Lane to the gate. Parking in the park requires annual pass or \$7 fee. We will hike about 5 miles on mostly level trails to sample the varied habitats of this Regional Park in the making. Lots of raptors and sparrows in and over the grasslands; some nice ponds with possible American Bittern; oak woodland residents; Barn Owls in the barn; possible wintering Burrowing Owl. Gene Hunn (enhunn323@comcast.net, 981-7301) leads. There is a workshop scheduled for the afternoon at which you can each get your own weekend pass. Bring lunch and water. Heavy rains cancel.

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.

November 23, 2013, Saturday: Gulls of the Sonoma County coast. Meet at Bodega Bay at the large dirt lot along Westshore Rd. at Bay Flat Rd. Check Bodega Bay, Salmon Creek beach, and Goat Rock Beach (and points between) for roosting flocks of gulls. The usual suspects include (of all ages): Heermann's, Mew, Ring-billed, Western, California, Herring, Thayer's, Glaucous-winged, and maybe Bonaparte's, with the slim possibility of rarities such as Glaucous, Black-legged Kittiwake, Iceland, and/or Slaty-backed (but don't hold your breath), plus hybrids (aarrgh!). There will be lots of non-gulls to look at also. Gene Hunn leads (enhunn323@comcast.net, 981-7301). Bring lunch or forage en route. Heavy rains cancel.

December 15, Sunday: RROS Santa Rosa Christmas Bird Count. All wishing to participate, please contact your previous area leaders, or **compiler, Bill Doyle:** shortbill@comcast.net. Compilation dinner will be held again this year at Coco's Restaurant, on Farmer's Lane, 5:00pm.

FIELD TRIP REPORT:

September 1st, Pelagic- We motored from seas mild to almost glassy on the second annual RROS Pelagic trip Sunday September 1. The birds made a good showing; we had a nice variety, though numbers of shearwaters were relatively low for the season. No great rarities were seen, but a couple of superlative experiences were had, including a mixed flock of Storm-petrels that most participants estimated at around 400 individuals. At another point in the trip Captain Rick cut the engine within a quite reasonable distance from a pod of feeding Humpback Whales which then came to check us out (or the bait below the hull) surrounding the boat and rising to blow within as close as 25 feet from us. You could almost smell their breath.

Participants: Patricia Bacchetti, Rita Bevans, Bill Bevans, Theadora Block, Everett Clark, Peter Colasanti, Bill Doyle, Theodore L. Eliot, Jr., Arnel Guanlao, Gary Haag, Denise Herzburg, Al Hesla, Andrew Hesla, Gene Hunn, Donald Kirker, Andy Lacasse, Rick Lebaudour, Monique Liguori, Tim Liguori, Roger Marlowe, Richard Merriss, Jeff Miller, Len Nelson, Norm Ortman, Gerry Pacis, Benjamin Parmeter, Elaine Pruett, Ruth Rudesill, Teri Haag, David Sexton, Alan Wight

Species seen past the Head: Black-footed Albatross, Northern Fulmar, Pink-footed Shearwater, Buller's Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, Wilson's Storm-Petrel, Black Storm-Petrel, Ashy Storm-Petrel, Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel, Double-crested Cormorant, Brandt's Cormorant, Pelagic Cormorant, Red-necked Phalarope, Red Phalarope, South Polar Skua, Pomarine Jaeger, Parasitic Jaeger, Long-tailed Jaeger, Heermann's Gull, California Gull, Western Gull, Sabine's Gull, Elegant Tern, Common Tern, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Cassin's Auklet, Rhinoceros Auklet

September 18th, Rodeo Lagoon and Hawk Hill- This lightly attended trip began at Rodeo Lagoon, with the leaders, Gene Hunn and Don Reinberg, accompanied by participants Helen Kochenderfer and Bill Doyle. On one of the most beautiful mornings so far this fall, most of the expected birds were seen, but no rarities. When thermal time arrived, the party repaired to Hawk Hill, where Elaine Pruett, Peter Colasanti, and Don Howard were waiting. There was plenty of action, with a constant parade of Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, Cooper's, and Sharp-shinned Hawks, Turkey Vultures, and other soaring birds. What must have been a first-of-season Ferruginous Hawk materialized seemingly out of thin air, made a pass in front of the group, and continued across the Golden Gate. A much-anticipated Broad-winged Hawk was called, but at such a great distance that no details could be seen. Finally, a short time later, a beautiful Broad-winged flew in on a bee line for the hill, and made a couple of slow passes right over our heads...very satisfying, and a CA lifer for at least one of the group.

Observations: 8/21 – 9/20, 2013**Compiled by David A. Hofmann**

Bird Species	Date/s	Location	County. #	Observer/s	Notes
Grtr Wht-frnted Goose	9/05/13	Delta Pond	SON 1	BiD	
Blue-footed Booby	9/11-19/13	Pt.Reyes/Lighthouse	MRN 1-2	MaB, mob	1st Cty Record
Blue-footed Booby	9/17-20/13	Bodega Head SP	SON 1-3	AlW, DaN, mob	1st Cty Rcd
Wilson's Storm-petrel	8/30-9/01/13	Pelagic/Bodega Cyn	SON 2	DeS, PBC, LiH, mob	
Fork-tld Storm-Petrel	8/30-9/01/13	Pelagic/Bodega Cyn	SON 15+	DeS, PBC, LiH, mob	
Black Storm-Petrel	8/30-9/01/13	Pelagic/Bodega Cyn	SON 8	DeS, PBC, LiH, mob	
Black Storm-Petrel	9/08/13	Bodega harbor	SON 1	JoS, mob	
Broad-winged Hawk	9/19/13	El Verano fly-over	SON 1	KaP	
Pacific Golden Plover	8/28-9/08/13	Shollenberger Park	SON 2	PBC, JoS, mob	
Am. Golden Plover	9/16/13	Bodega Bay/Spud Pt	SON 1	KeB, BrD, EuH, DeF	
Hudsonian Godwit	9/11-20/13	Huichica Creek WA	NAP 1 juv	MuB, mob	1st Cty Record
Baird's Sandpiper	9/08/13	Bodega Farm Pond	SON 7	HeK	
Baird's Sandpiper	9/08-11/13	Salmon Crk mouth	SON 1	JoS, BiG, BrO, OrO, mob	
Pectoral Sandpiper	9/08/13	Bodega Farm Pond	SON 3	HeK JoS, mob	
South Polar Skua	8/30-9/01/13	Pelagic/Bodega Cyn	SON 1	DeS, PBC, LiH, mob	
Long-tailed Jaeger	8/30-9/01/13	Pelagic/Bodega Cyn	SON 21	DeS, PBC, LiH, mob	
Scripp's Murrelet	9/02/13	Pelagic/Cordell-Bodega Cyn	MRN/SON 5	AlJ, mob	
Royal Tern	7/14/13	Doran Regional Park	SON 1	RiL	1st County Record
(Upon seeing the report of Royal Tern in last months Kite Tales by Bill Grummer. Rick LeBaudour took a second look at his photos taken while at Doran Regional Park, and found that he had taken an in-flight photo of a Royal Tern on an earlier date without realizing it.)					
Barred Owl	8/29/13	Armstrong Redwoods	SON 1	BiG	
Barred Owl	9/06-09/13	Stewart's Point Road	SON 1	EuH, JoL	
Blck-chnd Hummingbird	9/10/13	Campbell Cove	SON 1 m	RAR	
Tennessee Warbler	9/13-16/13	Campbell Cove	SON 1	DaN	
Northern Waterthrush	9/12-13/13	Campbell Cove	SON 1	DaN, BDP, EIC, EuH	
Northern Waterthrush	9/16/13	Bodega Dunes SP	SON 1	DaN	
MacGillivray's Warbler	8/24/13	Bodega Bay/Bay Flat Rd	SON 1	DeF	
MacGillivray's Warbler	8/27/13	Owl Canyon	SON 1	RAR	
MacGillivray's WA	9/06-08/13	E.Washington Crk, Petlma	SON 1	PBC, JaH, BiD, HeK, mob	
Canada Warbler	9/07-13/13	Campbell Cove	SON 1	BDP, DAH, JoS, DaN, mob	
Indigo Bunting	8/25-27/13	Campbell Cove	SON 1 m	ScC, PBC, DeF, LiH	
Indigo Bunting	9/12-16/13	Campbell Cove	SON 1 m	DaN, EuH	
Orchard Oriole	8/27/13	Diekmann's Store	SON 1	PBC	
Orchard Oriole	8/27/13	Campbell Cove	SON 1	DAH, RAR	
Orchard Oriole	9/8/13	Diekmann's Store	SON 1	ScC, mob (without a tail)	
Orchard Oriole	9/12-13/13	Campbell Cove	SON 1	DaN, DAH, BDP, EIC, EuH	
Orchard Oriole	9/17-18/13	Diekmann's Store	SON 1	EuH, PBC, RAR (with a tail)	
Baltimore Oriole	9/13/13	Campbell Cove	SON 1	DaN	

Observers for this period: Murray Berner, Mark Butler, Kerry Brady, Scott Carey, Ellie Cohen, Peter B. Colasanti, Brock Dolman, Bill Doyle, Dea Freid, Bill Grummer, David A. Hofmann, Jarred Hubbell, Lisa Hug, Eugene Hunn, Alvaro Jaramillo, Helen Kochenderfer, Rick LeBaubour, John Luther, Bob McLean, Dan Nelson, Brook O'Connor, Orion O'Connor, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Kathy Province, Ruth Ann Rudesill, Debra Shearwater, John Sterling, Colin Talcroft, Alan Wight

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

"PISHING with PARMETER"

Lewis's Woodpecker- Seeing a Lewis's Woodpecker is always a treat. Usually seen in small groups of 4 or 5, it flies with a flat flight, appearing all dark like a crow, rather than showing the pretty strawberry color of its belly. On 11/12/61 Gordon Bolander and I were birding on Annapolis Road in NW Sonoma County. We stopped near the crest of the hill about a mile west of the town of Annapolis and, to our surprise, when we got out of the car, we were surrounded by a large flock of this species. The birds were often giving their low pitched peculiar calls. We spent some time in determining the number of individuals. We came up to a count of approximately 200 Lewis's. They were doing some flycatching on the wing as they moved about, gradually moving south. This species is noted to migrate in large flocks in the fall while locating a winter site. I was thrilled to see this mélange of birds. I have not seen a similar flock of migratory Lewis's since then. In January, a few years ago, there was an estimated group of 150 birds in the oak woodland at the north end of Lake Berryessa. These were obviously wintering birds. The Birder's Handbook notes this is the only species of woodpecker that will perch on a wire. The bird has recently been moved into the genus *Melanerpes*, along with the Acorn Woodpecker. It was previously in a monotypic genus, *Asyndesmus*, which refers to a peculiar suture in the bird's skull, the only woodpecker to have this feature. *Mike~*

Jean Tonascia 1923-2013

To honor and celebrate the life of Jean Tonascia, there will be a memorial potluck at Spring Lake Regional Park. Please feel free to pass the word along to all who might want to come.

Peter Leveque will be the master of ceremonies.

WHEN: Saturday, October 5, 2013 11 am - 1 pm

WHERE: Spring Lake Regional Park Shady Oaks Group Picnic area (near the Environmental Discovery Center) at the NORTH entrance to Spring Lake, 393 Violetti Road (off Channel Drive).

DIRECTIONS: From Montgomery Drive, go south on Channel Drive, then south on Violetti Road.

MAP: (look for EDC to find Shady Oaks picnic area)

http://parks.sonomacounty.ca.gov/uploadedFiles/Parks/Get_Out_doors/Parks/spring_lake_map.pdf

To view photos of Jean, her husband Jim, and of some of Jean's artwork, see: <https://jeantonascia.shutterfly.com/>

Ruth

Donors: Thank you!

Donald McCarthy; And, in memory of Jean Tonascia: Gary and Terry Haag, Don Howard

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

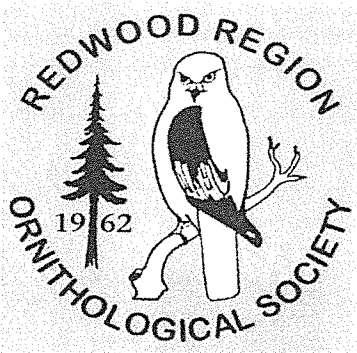
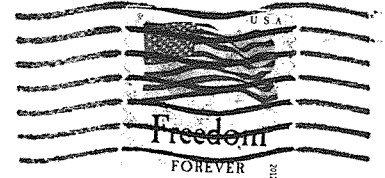
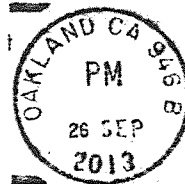
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Committee Chairs

Field Trips - Gene Hunn Petaluma, 94954.....	enhunn323@comcast.net	981-7301
Observations- David Hofmann 2021 Pioneer Wy #47, Santa Rosa, 95403	nnamfoh@comcast.net	546-0325
Christmas Bird 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.

KITE TALES
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