



# Kite Tales

Volume 49 Number 5

January 2014

**RROS General Meeting  
January 9, 2014, 7:00pm  
Laguna Wastewater Treatment Plant**

**"Looking Back: Historical Photographs  
and Ornithological Research Highlights  
from Bodega Head"**

Have you seen pictures of Bodega Dunes from the 1930s? Have you thought about what the entrance to Bodega Harbor looked like before the jetties were built? Would you like to learn more about the types of ornithological research that have been conducted on Bodega Head? Join us for a look back in time, enjoying historical photographs of one of the sites in Sonoma County most visited by birders. We will also discuss some of the ornithological research highlights of local studies based at the Bodega Marine Laboratory and Reserve. Jackie Sones, Research Coordinator at UC Davis' Bodega Marine Reserve, will be our guide on this stroll down memory lane.



***Summer Tanager at Campbell Cove  
By Rick LeBadour***

**Directions to the monthly meeting:**

From Hwy, take Hwy 116 West 101 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 the left.

**Dinner before January 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: February 13, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Gordon Beebe** will give a presentation on the wildlife of Costa Rica. He will also tell us about Costa Rica ecotourism and conservation efforts. Pura Vida!

**FIELD TRIPS – December 2014, and beyond:**

**January 11, Saturday:** 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 Cove. 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, Long-tailed Duck, Black Scoter, Rock Sandpiper, and Ancient Murrelet. It is a two hour drive to our starting point. **NOTE CHANGE:** Meet at 7:30 AM to carpool at **PG&E Park and Ride**, on River Rd., just west of 101. Meet Ron at Punta Arena Cove at 9:30 AM. Added bonus: visit Ron's photography studio in Fort Bragg. Return via SR 20 or 128 through Cloverdale. Heavy rains cancel.

**January 25, Saturday: Willowside Trail and Delta Pond** and, if it can be arranged, Guy Smith's "Georgetown" movie set and resident **Black Hawk**. Meet at south side of Willowside Rd. bridge, Santa Rosa, at 8:30 AM. Bring lunch. Bill Doyle, leader. Heavy rains cancel.

**February 1, Saturday:** Wintering Raptors and Waterfowl of Solano and Yolo, 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM, Terry Colborn, leader. 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 Curlews, 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, a.k.a. the Vic Fazio Refuge. Participants meet the leader at 8:00 AM 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/snacks and liquids; dress in layers. Heavy rains cancel. For questions or more info, contact Terry Colborn, field trip leader at 916.705.8991; [www.TLCBirding.com](http://www.TLCBirding.com).

**February 15, Saturday: San Pablo Bay shore sites.** Restoration of key habitat along Sonoma County's San Pablo Bay coastline is underway. There are large winter concentrations of waterfowl (including perhaps Barrow's Goldeneye), shorebirds, and raptors (maybe a Rough-legged Hawk or Short-eared Owl) to be pursued, plus flocks of sparrows (maybe Clay-colored) and other species of plowed fields (pipits, Horned Larks) and hedgerows (shrikes). We will meet at 8:00am at the Port of Sonoma Marina parking lot, to check the mouth of the Petaluma River, before heading east to Reclamation Road, the Sonoma River bridge, and the Skaggs Island spur. Finish by 3 PM. Bring your lunch, dress for the weather. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Lisa Hug

**FIELD TRIP REPORTS:**

**Santa Rosa CBC:** The RROS Santa Rosa CBC was held this year on Sunday, the 15<sup>th</sup> of December, the first day of the national CBC period. The day was sunny and clear, but quite cold in the early hours. Participant turnout was good. While birding conditions could hardly have been better, the continuing drought and development had led to significant habitat deterioration in many areas. These factors led to an average total number of species, which, as of this writing, stands at **146**. Standout birds were **Lewis's Woodpecker**, from Crane Creek, and, for the first time, **Common Blackhawk**, from private property in the Laguna, near Santa Rosa Creek. Many thanks to all who helped! Please join us again next year.

**Observations: 10/21 – 11/20, 2013****Compiled by David A. Hofmann**

Species	Date/s	Location	County.	#	Observer/s	Notes
Grtr White-frntd Goose	11/21/13	S.R./Place to Play Pk	SON	4	WeD	
Snow Goos	11/21/13	Doran Regional Park	SON	47	JaS, fly-over	
Snow Goose	11/23/13	Jenner	SON	2	EuH, mob	
Snow Goose	11/25-29/13	Hudeman Slough	SON	1-2	KaM, EuH	
Snow Goose	12/15/13	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	2	BoD	
Snow Goose	12/17/13	Hudeman Slough	SON	2	KaP	
Tundra Swan	11/21/13	Doran Regional Park	SON	4	JaS, fly-over	
Tundra Swan	11/21/13	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	13	RiL fly-by	
<b>Yellow-billed Loon</b>	11/23-27/13	Bodega harbor	SON	1	EuH,RAR	<b>t/b rev CBRC</b>
Northern Fulmar	12/7/13	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	1	JaS	
Northern Fulmar	12/9/13	Spud Pt Marina pier	SON	1	KaF	
<b>Common Black Hk</b>	12/15/13	Laguna de Santa Rosa	SON	1 m	GuS	cont since 2005
Ferruginous Hawk	12/2/13	Hwy 116	SON	3	KaM	
Ferruginous Hawk	12/9/13	Railroad Ave	SON	3	DaB	
Ferruginous Hawk	12/14/13	Tolay Lake Reg. Park	SON	2	CoT, RoB, ThB	
Ferruginous Hawk	12/17/13	Sonoma Mounain Rd	SON	3	EuH, RoS	
Rough-legged Hawk	11/27/13	south of Penngrove	SON	1	JoC	
Rough-legged Hawk	11/30/13	Hudeman Slough	SON	1	LiH, ROD, BiD, HeK	
Rough-legged Hawk	12/14/13	Tolay Lake Reg. Park	SON	1	CoT, ThB, RoB	
Merlin	12/15/13	Laguna de Santa Rosa	SON	1	MiP, BDP, BiL, DAH	
Pacific Golden PL	11/21/13	Doran Regional Park	SON	1	JaS, cont fr 11/2/13	
Stilt Sandpiper	11/29-30/13	Hudeman Slough	SON	1	EuH, LiH, BiD, ROD, HeK	
Ruff	11/25/13	Hudeman Slough	SON	1	KaM	cont. fr. 11/9/13
Red Phalarope	12/7/13	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	83	JaS	
Ancient Murrelet	11/21/13	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	3	RiL	
Ancient Murrelet	11/23/13	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	1	EuH, mob	
Lewis's Woodpecker	12/15/13	Crane Creek Reg. Pk	SON	1	KaM	
<b>Dsky-capped Flyctchr</b>	11/26/13	Campbell Cove St.Pk	SON	1	ROD, JaS, LiH	
Nor. Waterthrush	11/21-25/13	Diekmann's Store	SON	1	RiL, DeF	cont. fr. 10/13
<b>Summer Tanager</b>	11/25-27/13	Campbell Cove St.Pk	SON	1 f	De&DaH, mob	
Grasshopper Sparrow	11/29/13	Santa Rosa yard	SON	1	LiH, <b>late occurrence</b>	
Swamp Sparrow	11/21-25/13	Diekmann's Store	SON	1	RiL, DeF	
Swamp Sparrow	12/15/13	Laguna de Santa Rosa	SON	1	MiP, BDP, BiL, DAH	
Harris's Sparrow	12/19/13	Old Lakeville Rd #3	SON	1 im	EuH, PBC, JoM, AIH	
<b>Little Bunting</b>	12/12-17/13	McKinleyville	HUM	1	KeS, LiH, RAR, BDP, mob	
Great-tailed Grackle	12/15/13	Laguna de Santa Rosa	SON	1 f	DAH, BDP, MiP, BiL	

**Observers for this period:** Dave Barry, Robin Blaney, Theadora Block, Bill Josiah Clark, Peter B. Colasanti, Wendy Danridge, Bill Doyle, Bob Dyer, Kathy Francone, Dea Freid, Denise & David Hamilton, Al Hessler, David A. Hofmann, Lisa Hugg, Eugene Hunn, Helen Kochenderfer, Rick LeBaudour, Bill Lenarz, Joy Mander, Kathy Mugele, Rob O'Donnell, Michael Park, Kathy Parker, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Keith Slauson, Guy Smith, Jackie Sones, Ron Storey, Colin Talcroft, Alan Wight **The compiler apologizes and takes full responsibility for omissions or errors regarding this list.**

***“PISHING with PARMETER” BOHEMIAN WAXWING~***

There was an incursion of Bohemian Waxwings into Sonoma County during the early spring of 1969. Any large flock of Cedar Waxwings encountered usually had a few Bohemians in the mix. They are easily picked out by size and call differences. Natalie Mestichen, a librarian at the Santa Rosa library and a charter member of RROS, was the first to report the species. Very soon all the birders were recording them. Ken Jewett took me out to Jaylee Lane near Santa Rosa, and showed me my life Sonoma County bird on 3/8/69. There were 15 Bohemians in a mixed flock with Cedar Waxwings. I was living in Cotati at the time, and on 4/12 & 13/69, there were 6 and 11 birds, respectively, at my home there. The bird was widespread in all Sonoma County at this time. The birds were present until mid-April, or for about 5 weeks, before they departed. Recently, Ken Ackerman and Gerry Muegle reported 2 birds present in a flock of Cedar Waxwings on 1/25/05 at Oakmont.

Hope for another big influx.

**The Ovenbird**

There is a singer everyone has heard,  
Loud, a mid-summer and a mid-wood bird,  
Who makes the solid tree trunks sound again.  
He says that leaves are old and that for flowers  
Mid-summer is to spring as one to ten.  
He says the early petal-fall is past  
When pear and cherry bloom went down in showers  
On sunny days a moment overcast;  
And comes that other fall we name the fall.  
He says the highway dust is over all.  
The bird would cease and be as other birds  
But that he knows in singing not to sing.  
The question he then frames in all but words  
Is what to make of a diminished thing.

**Robert Frost~**

**REMINDER~** Treasurer Don Howard requests that all members who remain delinquent with this season's dues, please remit to him, in person, at this month's meeting, or in the mail to the address which appears on the last page of this newsletter.

Welcome to new members **KEITH & ANNE SCHROEDER** of Sebastopol, and **SUSAN KIRKS**, of Petaluma!

### **Migratory birds and the 2014 Construction Season- Lakeville and Petaluma Bridges**

**CALTRANS** will provide an update for local conservation and community organizations having expertise in local migratory birds on measures to protect bird population during the 2014 construction season at the Lakeville and Petaluma bridges at US 101 in Sonoma County. WHEN: Thursday, Jan 9, 2014 from 1 to 2pm. WHERE: Petaluma Community Center, 320 N. McDowell Blvd, Petaluma.

Questions - call or Email: ALLYN AMASK, Pub. Info. Officer, Sonoma County (510)286-5445; Email: [allyn\\_amsk@dot.ca.gov](mailto:allyn_amsk@dot.ca.gov).

### **Famous People You Never Heard Of:**

**John Kirk Townsend**, whose name was given to one of our most striking winter warblers, as well as to the graceful Townsend's Solitaire, was born to a wealthy Quaker family in Philadelphia, in 1809. He was infected in childhood with the strong interest in natural history that was widespread in the city at that time. As a young man, he accompanied **Thomas Nuttall** on an early expedition, overland, to the Pacific Northwest, with the aim of collecting and documenting the birds of the country through which they passed. Part of the plan was to publish an illustrated book introducing to the public the birds, and other fauna, of what would become the western US. Sadly for Townsend, he began his book just as Audubon was publishing his Birds of America, which completely overshadowed it. It's ironic that many of the specimens that Audubon used to produce his illustrations were collected by Townsend and Nuttall. Though Townsend gave up his project, he did publish a memoir of their journey. The first edition, of 300 copies, was a sell-out, but there was no second printing. In 2007, however, a lavish edition was produced by Barbara and Richard Means, which includes not only Townsend's account of the journey, but many of his illustrations, as well as a huge amount of supporting material. Townsend trained as a doctor, and later practiced dentistry. He died quite young, at 42, in 1851. His brother, also a doctor, attributed his early death to the effects of the arsenic that he used to prepare the many specimens that were collected during the expedition.

Thomas Nuttall, of woodpecker, Poorwill, and Olive-sided Flycatcher fame, went on to live a longer and more productive life. But that's another story. Ed. ~

**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**

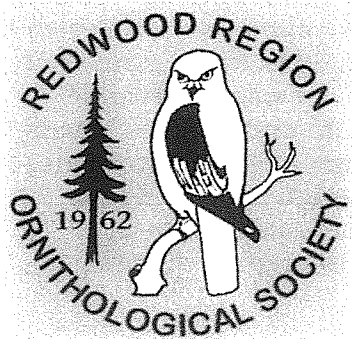
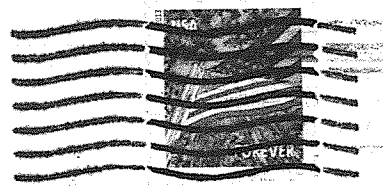
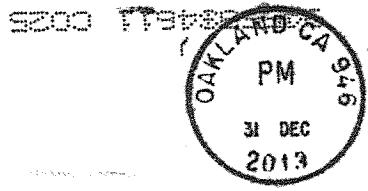
President - Bill Doyle-	1966 Belmont Ct, Santa Rosa, 95404	<a href="mailto:shortbill@comcast.net">shortbill@comcast.net</a>	483-8773
Vice Pres. - Terry Haag-	1340 Big Plum Dr., Sebastopol, 95472	<a href="mailto:teresitahaag@comcast.net">teresitahaag@comcast.net</a>	823-8527
Secretary - Mike Nelligan-	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 - Gene Hunn	Petaluma, 94954.....	<a href="mailto:enhunn323@comcast.net">enhunn323@comcast.net</a>	981-7301
Observations- David Hofmann	2021 Pioneer Wy #47, Santa Rosa, 95403	<a href="mailto:nnamfoh@comcast.net">nnamfoh@comcast.net</a>	546-0325
Christmas Bird 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.

**KITE TALES**  
979 Hogwarts Circle  
Petaluma CA 9954



Benjamin D. Parmeter, MD  
2500 Emerson St  
Napa, CA 94558