



Kite Tales

Volume 49 Number 7

March 2014

**RROS General Meeting
March 13, 2014, 7:00pm
Laguna Wastewater Treatment Plant**

Tom Reynolds will show a video he prepared for the Lincoln School Audubon Bird Day. The video features Brown Creepers, Pileated Woodpeckers, the Martinez beavers and many other creatures. He will also share some still photos. He will discuss photography equipment and techniques. And you will have an opportunity to ask questions about video and still photography. Tom is out photographing every day, and he has a knack for being in the center of the wildlife action.

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 the left.



Brewer's Sparrow, at Shollenberger Park, by **Ron Storey**.

Dinner before February 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: April 10, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. Joel Hornstein will show pictures of his 2010 trip to southwestern Florida, featuring birds, reptiles, mammals, butterflies and amphibians.

FIELD TRIPS – February 2014, and beyond:

March 21-23, Friday through Sunday: Honey Lake Sage Grouse plus winter birds of the Great Basin and east side of the Sierra. **Rick Le Baudour** leads. (707-974-0004). We will spend the better part of three days birding the Susanville area in Lassen County. The main focus of this trip is to see Greater Sage-grouse on the lek. That means leaving the hotel at about 4:15 AM on Saturday. Depending on weather and road conditions, some walking (a mile or so) may be required to get to the lek. We will also explore both units of the Honey Lake Wildlife Refuge, Janesville grade for mountain birds, and various other stops along the way. Other specialty birds seen in the past include Northern Goshawk, Prairie Falcon, Lewis's Woodpecker, Northern Shrike, the newly recognized Sagebrush Sparrow, American Tree Sparrow, Harris sparrow, etc. The River Inn is the hotel we have used in the past (530 257-6051). There is also a Super 8 in town (530-257-2782). The trip begins officially on Friday morning at 8:30 in the parking lot at The River Inn. Bring your optics, especially spotting scopes, food for lunches and lots of layers of warm clothing. The temperature at the lek can be in the mid-teens. We will dine out for breakfast and dinner. Feel free to call with any questions regarding this trip. Please check with Rick in case weather affects plans at the last minute. Approximate driving time is 5 to 5½ hours, birding not included. If you plan to drive up Friday morning call Rick to find out where to meet later on Friday.

April 12, Saturday: Mines Rd and Del Valle in Livermore, Alameda County: Leader: Ruthie Rudesill, 707-833-6026, evenings. ruthier@sonic.net There is potential for some very interesting birds including Roadrunner, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Phainopepla, Rufous-crowned Sparrow. This will be an all day excursion. Bring binoculars, scopes, layers of clothing, lunch and beverages. There is an entrance fee to Del Valle Reservoir Park. It was \$6 last year (+ Bridge Toll for the Benicia Bridge). Car pooling is encouraged. Meet at the Park n Ride at Hwy 116 x 121 in south Sonoma at 7am. Heavy rain cancels.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

**Wintering Raptors and Waterfowl of Solano and Yolo
Redwood Region Ornithological Society
February 1, 2014**

Terry Colborn, Leader

Twenty-seven birders joined Terry Colborn for a day-long trek through the open agricultural lands of Solano and Yolo Counties. Our first stop on Cook Lane, south of Dixon, provided views of several raptors, including a Golden Eagle perched atop a transmission tower. We also spotted our first of 9 Loggerhead Shrikes. Lisa Hug's sharp eyes picked out a pair of

Great Horned Owls roosting in a nearby tree, affording everyone good scope views. Several Wilson's Snipe zipped out from the wetlands, while a Virginia Rail called numerous times from deep within the cattails. A cooperative Green Heron in perfect light afforded everyone stunning views. Moving on to Jepson Prairie, a few of the first carloads of birders saw a Ferruginous Hawk alight from the Eucalyptus grove and disappear in the distance. Our eyes scanned all the perches until we found a beautiful Prairie Falcon teed up in great light. Olcott Lake, usually a 93 acre winter and spring playa, was dry as a bone, and looked more like the surrounding open grasslands. With devastating drought conditions lingering on, there were no vernal pools present, in what may prove to be one of the worst spring wildflower blooms on record.

We continued on to Flannery Road where we found three cooperative Burrowing Owls, one of which was perched on a fence post as we drove by, affording some great photo opts. Although we searched in vain, we couldn't locate a single Mt Plover; eBird records indicate they are usually gone from the Central Valley by about 7 February. A dozen Long-billed Curlew were a nice consolation for our efforts. As our caravan drove along Robinson Road, we spotted a Ferruginous Hawk as it flew directly in front of the lead vehicle. We added several Red-tailed Hawks, American Kestrel and several more Loggerhead Shrikes, before rolling on to the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area east of Davis.

The abundance of waterfowl in the YBWA was evident by our first stop, where we found 11 species of ducks, including good numbers of Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Green-winged and Cinnamon Teal, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead and Gadwall. At our second stop, we scoped scores of Tundra Swan. With his eyes always looking for a rarity, Noah Arthur picked out a "Bewick's" Swan, a subspecies of Tundra Swan from Asia and Europe. During our lunch break, we heard a Sora calling from the wetlands, while numerous Mash Wren sang from their reedy perches, no doubt already staking out their territories. A Lincoln's Sparrow made an all-too-brief appearance. Though the day was getting late, several folks opted to continue on with Terry for a chance to visit a nearby ag area that has recently been serving as a nighttime roost for over one-hundred Northern Harriers; quite a spectacle to behold! There were already dozens of harriers coursing over the fields when we arrived. We watched as the sun set and their numbers continued to increase. A female Peregrine Falcon, perched on a nearby transmission tower, watched for any wayward prey. Just before dusk, we were rewarded with nice views of several Short-eared Owls, as they emerged from the tall grasses and went about foraging for their dinner. A great way to end a great day of birding!

While the birding seemed a little slow at times, particularly in the morning, we nonetheless tallied 72 species for the day.

Terry Colborn, leader

South Sonoma County, February 15, 2014

On Saturday, February 15th, **Lisa Hug** led a field trip around many of the birdiest spots of southernmost Sonoma County. The day started at Port Sonoma, on the Petaluma River. After scoping the river and marina, and spotting a Peregrine Falcon, as well as a wealth of shorebirds and waders, the group moved to nearby Reclamation Rd., where highlights included a Prairie Falcon and a flock of Horned Larks in the fields to the south. Also at Reclamation Rd. was a beautiful male Selasphorous hummingbird, enjoyed by everyone. After much discussion, the bird was not identified as to species, but Rufous/Allen's is a treat any time. Moving on to Hudeman Slough, another Peregrine was seen, as well as two Redheads, in addition to many other fine birds. Thank you, Lisa.

Observations: 1/21/2014 - 2/20/2014**Compiled by David A. Hofmann**

| Species | Date/s | Location | County. | # | Observer/s | Notes |
|---------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|---------|-------|-------------------|-------|
| Grtr White-frntd Goose | 1/08/14 | Lakeville Ponds | SON | 6 | EuH | |
| Snow Goose | 1/02/14 | Casa Grande High | SON | 2 | DaB | |
| Snow Goose | 1/04/14 | Hudeman Slough | SON | 4 | AIW | |
| Cackling Goose | 1/09/14 | Ellis Creek Ponds | SON | 3 | BeB | |
| Trumpeter Swan | 12/25/13-1/02/14 | Vacaville area | SOL | 6 | DaD,PBC,BDP | |
| Eurasian Wigeon | 1/12/14 | Salmon Creek | SON | 1 m | RoM | |
| Redhead | 1/05-10/14 | Ellis Creek Ponds | SON | 1-2 f | ChS, BoD | |
| Long-tailed Duck | 12/29/13 | Bodega Marine Lab | SON | 1 | JaS, Bi&PaL | |
| Barrow's Goldeneye | 1/02-04/14 | Port Sonoma | SON | 6m 1f | BiL, AIW | |
| Red-necked Grebe | 1/05/14 | Duncan's Landing | SON | 3 | AIW | |
| Red-tld Hawk (Harlan's) | 1/16-20/14 | Bird Walk Reg. Park | SON | 1 | LiH, DeF, DaB | |
| Ferruginous Hawk | 12/21/13 | Fedrick Ranch Road | SON | 1 | RAR | |
| Ferruginous Hawk | 1/04/14 | Stage Gulch Road | SON | 1 im | AIW | |
| Ferruginous Hawk | 1/12/14 | Colman Valley Road | SON | 1 | RoM | |
| Rough-legged Hawk | 1/19/14 | Tolay Lake Reg. Pk | SON | 1 | DaB | |
| Merlin | 1/19/14 | Tolay Lake Reg. Pk | SON | 1 | DaB | |
| Merlin | 12/21/13 | Fedrick Ranch Road | SON | 1 | RAR | |
| Prairie Falcon | 1/04/14 | Skaggs Island Road | SON | 1 | AIW | |
| Prairie Falcon | 1/19/14 | Tolay Lake Reg. Pk | SON | 1 | DaB | |
| Pacific Golden Plover | 12/25-28/13 | Shollenberger Park | SON | 1 | JoP,BDP,DAH,EuH | |
| Snowy Plover | 1/05/14 | Doran Regional Park | SON | 21 | AIW | |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | 12/29/13-1/04/14 | Hudeman Slough | SON | 2-6 | DoM,EuH,AIW | |
| Stilt Sandpiper | 12/21/13-1/10/14 | Hudeman Slough | SON | 1 | MuB,PBC,BiL,mob | |
| Iceland Gull (Kumlien's) | 12/28/13 | Shollenberger Park | SON | 1 | EuH t/b revd CBRC | |
| Black-legged Kittiwake | 12/29/13 | near shore pelagic | SON | 2 | EuH | |
| Ancient Murrelet | 1/04/14 | Bodega Head St.Park | SON | 11 | PBC | |
| Burrowing Owl | 12/29/13 | Bodega Head St.Park | SON | 1 | DAH | |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | 12/27-28/13 | Kenwood yard | SON | 1 | RAR | |
| Red-naped Sapsucker | 12/28/13 | Sonoma yard | SON | 1 | EuH | |
| Northern Shrike | 1/7-18/14 | Huichica Wetlands | NAP | 1 im | MuB, De&DaH,mob | |
| Barn Swallow | 12/29/13 | Bodega Head St.Park | SON | 4 | DaN,BDP,JoP,DAH | |
| Mountain Bluebird | 12/29/13 | Duncan's Mill area | SON | 1 | RiK, MiH | |
| Nashville Warbler | 12/26/13-1/17/14 | Diekmann's Store | SON | 1 | DeF,RAR,DeH,mob | |
| Palm Warbler | 12/21/13 | Old Lakeville Hwy #3 | SON | 1 | RAR | |
| Northern Waterthrush | 12/29/13-1/12/14 | Diekmann's Store | SON | 1 | MaD,RAR,PBC,mob | |
| Clay-colored Sparrow | 12/21/13 | Old Lakeville Hwy #3 | SON | 1 | RAR | |
| Swamp Sparrow | 1/20/14 | Spring Lake Reg. Pk | SON | 3 | TeC, mob | |
| Orchard Oriole | 12/26-29/13 | Diekmann's Store | SON | 1 f | DeF, RAR, mob | |
| Orchard Oriole | 1/04-17/14 | Diekmann's Store | SON | 1 f | BDP,MaB,DAH,ROD | |

Observers for this period: Dave Barry, Margaret Barson, Murray Berner, Betty Burrridge, Peter B. Colasanti, Terry Colborn, David Diller, Matthew Dodder, Bob Dyer, Dea Freid, Denise & Dave Hamilton, Mike Heffernon, Denise Herzberg, David A. Hofmann, Eugene Hunn, Richard Kuehn, Bill Lenarz, Bill & Paget Lenarz, Roger Marlowe, Dominik Mosur, Dan Nelson, Rob O'Donnel, Benjamin D. Parmeter, John Parmeter, Ruth Ann Rudesill, Chris Selvig, Jackie Sones, Alan Wight

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

"PISHING with PARMETER" A different approach this month. I've picked out 3 fieldtrips that RROS held in the distant past. I'll give you the site of the trip, the number of species seen, best birds, and a list of the attendees. How many names do you recognize?

- (1) 1/20/73, Bodega Bay, Sonoma Coast, 101 species.
 Red-necked Grebe, Whistling Swan, Common Scoter (sic), White-winged Scoter, Ferruginous Hawk, Wandering Tattler, Rock Sandpiper, Heermann's Gull, Burrowing Owl, Varied Thrush, Evening Grosbeak.
 Attendees: Jack Arnold, Bud Graylap, Joan Graylap, Jack Guggolz, Phil Henderson, John Parmeter, Mike Parmeter (leader), and Carl Sather.
- (2) 4/26/86, Ida Clayton Road, 65 species.
 Mountain Quail, Northern Pygmy Owl, Vaux Swift, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Purple Martin, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Solitary Vireo (sic), Hermit Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, Sage Sparrow.
 Attendees: Jack Arnold, Dick Ashford, Faye Beeman, Bob Cosgriff, Les Hood, Don Johnson, Louise Johnson, Rick Lebaudour, Roger Marlowe, Richard Merriss, Karen Nagle, Dan Nelson, Winnie Nelson, Mike Parmeter (leader), Susan Patla, Ruth Rudesill, Wayne Tillay, Jean Tonascia, Jim Tonascia.
- (3) 5/18/96, Pine Flat Road, 55 species.
 Golden Eagle, Mountain Quail, House Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Solitary Vireo (sic), Nashville Warbler, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Lazuli Bunting, Lark Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow (very late!).
 Attendees: Carol Brant, Ted Eliot, David Hofmann, Mike Parmeter (leader), Linda Petrusius, Ruth Rudesill, Don Toms, Jean Tonascia, Jim Tonascia, Ned Wynn.

Full species lists available upon request. Write to me c/o GD, Cairo, Egypt.

Mike~



***Look! Look! He is climbing the last light
 Who knows neither Time nor error
 And under whose eye, unforgiving
 The world, unforgiven,
 Swings into shadow.***

From "Evening Hawk"
 By Robert Penn Warren

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

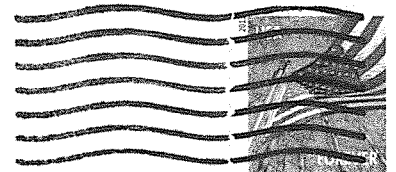
President - Bill Doyle- 1966 Belmont Ct, Santa Rosa, 95404 shortbill@comcast.net 483-8773
 Vice Pres. - Terry Haag- 1340 Big Plum Dr., Sebastopol, 95472 teresitahaag@comcast.net 823-8527
 Secretary - Mike Nelligan- 4663 Sullivan Way, Santa Rosa, 95409 mnbudymn@sonic.net 539-1897
 Treasurer - Don Howard- 979 Hogwarts Circle, Petaluma, 94954 binkybunji2@comcast.net 637-0868

Committee Chairs

Field Trips - 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
979 Hogwarts Circle
Petaluma CA 94954



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

