



Kite Tales

Volume 49 Number 8

April 2014

**RROS General Meeting
April 10, 2014, 7:00pm
Laguna Wastewater Treatment Plant**

Joel Hornstein will entertain us with photos of his 2010 trip to southern Florida. His subjects will include not just the many birds that are found there, but also mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and butterflies. We will have an in depth look at the abundant and diverse animal life of one of the most unique ecological zones of the United States.



Orange-crowned Warbler, Ken Wilson

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.

Dinner before April 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: May 8, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. Join us at **Sugarloaf Ridge State Park** for the annual spring potluck and bird walk. This always enjoyable event, at the picnic area across the road from the main parking lot, brings us together to share delicious food and drink provided by members, and conversation about past and future birding events and sightings. There will be a short bird walk after the meal and meeting. Bring binoculars, an extra layer, and a big smile.

FIELD TRIPS – February 2014, and beyond:

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.

April 26, Saturday: Pine Flat, Sonoma County: Leader, Bill Doyle shortbill@comcast.net Join us on the annual spring trip to a very diverse and birdy part of the county. We should be surrounded by abundant song and have good views of breeding birds that are very difficult to find anywhere else, like Purple Martin, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Sage Sparrow, California Thrasher, Lazuli Bunting, Mountain Quail, and many others. Pine Flat always produces excellent surprises as well. Meet at the bottom of Pine Flat Road, on the west side of Sausal Creek bridge, at 7:30am, sharp. Take 101 north, to Lytton Springs Rd. exit; go east from 101 a short distance to Healdsburg Ave; take Healdsburg Ave. south to Alexander Valley Rd.; go east on Alexander Valley, across 128, and continue to bridge. Park on left side of road, next to vineyard. We will need to combine into as few cars as possible, as parking is limited on the road. Bring bins, layers, and lunch. Trip ends at mid-afternoon.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS: Preliminary report from the Rick LeBaudour Lassen County Greater Sage-Grouse expedition, March 21-23.

Most of our 23 participants arrived at the River Inn in Susanville Thursday evening, March 20, some with already 100 species under their belts on the trip up.

Friday morning, after a leisurely start, checked nearby Lake Leavitt for ducks, geese, and other water birds. Highlights included over 10,000 Snow Geese, with a few Ross's in the mix, with a blue phase bird or two of each species. Sandhill Cranes overhead and a great variety of ducks on the lake. Next was Wendel Rd. along the base of the Skeedaddle Hills east of Honey Lake where we heard Chukars, spotted several early Sage Thrashers, and watched Golden Eagles and a brief fly-off of a Prairie Falcon. Then we checked the Honey Lake SWA, locating a Great Horned Owl on the nest and a lingering Northern Shrike. We finished the day on the Janesville Grade (very quiet) and the town of Janesville, full of woodpeckers, including a rosy Lewis's.

Horned Lark	3/17/14	near Tolay Creek	SON	2	EuH	
Rock Wren	2/22/14	Estero Americano	SON	1	KeB	
Nashville Warbler	3/07-11/14	Diekmann's Store	SON	1	DaW, RAR	cont'd
Northern Waterthrush	3/20/14	Diekmann's Store	SON	1	DeF	
Brewer's Sparrow	2/21/14	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	DoS	
Swamp Sparrow	2/23-26/14	Spring Lake Reg. Pk	SON	1-2	RoS, RAR	
White-throated Sparrow	2/24/14	Petaluma yard	SON	1	RoB	
White-throated Sparrow	3/10/14	Kenwood yard	SON	1	RAR	
White-throated Sparrow	3/12/14	Willowside Road	SON	4+	EuH, RoS	
White-throated Sparrow	3/18/14	Santa Rosa yard	SON	1	WeD	

Observers for this period: Rita Bevins, Robin Blaney, Kerry Brady, Scott Carey, Peter B. Colasanti, Wendy Dandridge, Brock Dolman, Bill Doyle, Dea Freid, Moss Henry, David A. Hofmann, Eugene Hunn, Peter LeVeque, Madrone Audubon Society, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Ruth Ann Rudesill, Ron Storey, Doug Shaw, Dan Williams

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

"PISHING with PARMETER" SOME EARLY OFFSHORE TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

(Back then we ran 2 yearly trips, usually April and October)

- 1) 4/23/66 Offshore Sonoma County waters.
All 3 loons, Black-footed Albatross, Pink-footed Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, Northern (sic) Phalarope, Ancient Murrelet, Cassin's Auklet, Rhinoceros Auklet.
Leader: Mike Parmeter.
- 2) 10/8/66 Offshore Sonoma County.
Fulmar, Pink-footed Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, New Zealand (sic) Shearwater, Ashy Storm Petrel, White-winged Scoter, Sabine's Gull, Cassin's Auklet, Rhinoceros Auklet.
Leader: Mike Parmeter.
- 3) 10/9/67 Directly offshore from Bodega Head, 25 miles and return, aboard the Finback.
Pink-footed Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, New Zealand (sic) Shearwater, White-winged Scoter, Northern (sic) Phalarope, Cassin's Auklet, Rhinoceros Auklet. Leaders: Gordon Bolander and Mike Parmeter, Baron McLean, Dorothy Radcliff, Jean Bishop, Faye Beeman, Earl Parmeter, Verle Craven, Zoe Craven.
- 4) 10/11/70 Cordell Banks, aboard the Finback.
Pink-footed Shearwater, New Zealand (sic) Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, White-winged Scoter, Pomarine Jaeger, Black-legged Kittiwake, Marbled Murrelet, Cassin's Auklet, Rhinoceros Auklet, Palm Warbler (this bird landed on a sandwich which Jack Arnold was eating!)
Leaders: Gordon Bolander and Mike Parmeter, Jack Arnold.
- 5) 10/19/75 Cordell Banks.
Fulmar, Pink-footed Shearwater, New Zealand (sic) Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, White-winged Scoter, Northern (sic) Phalarope, Pomarine Jaeger, Parasitic Jaeger, Skua, Rhinoceros Auklet.
Leader: Mike Parmeter, John Parmeter, Jack Arnold, Bud Graylapp. *Mike*

Saturday early (4:45 AM departure) we set off in our caravan to the Greater Sage-Grouse lek north of town on US 395 at the end of a very rough road. As Venus set and the half-moon paled before the sunrise, we heard the “lump-lump” of the dancing sage grouse males, five in all, strutting their stuff. We returned for a hearty breakfast in town before driving north to Eagle Lake. A small roadside pond en route offered a dozen species of ducks, if you can count the Blue-winged X Cinnamon Teal hybrid. The campground at the north end was alive with singing Cassin’s Finches, noisy nuthatches (Pygmy and White-breasted), Mountain Chickadees, Western Bluebirds, a Townsend’s Solitaire, a lone Pinyon Jay, and a fantastic display of Red Crossbills, including a female on a nest.

Sunday we packed up and headed west towards Lake Almanor (Plumas County), but not before enjoying a pair of Dipper’s building a nest at the Susan River bridge in Susanville and a pair of Mountain Bluebirds along the highway. Lake Almanor and the Chester Sewage Ponds provided a nearly complete list of duck possibilities, including Wood Ducks and Hooded Mergansers plus distant Tundra Swans. Rick led us through the back streets of Chester chasing a large, noisy contingent of Evening Grosbeaks. We ended the trip at mid-day at the Lassen National Park entrance where snow blocked further progress. A Williamson’s Sapsucker called and a Clark’s Nutcracker worked a tree opposite the parking lot, to round out the trip list

Observations: Feb. 21, 2014 - Mar. 20, 2014

Compiled by David A. Hofmann

Species	Date/s	Location	County #	Observer/s
Grtr Wht-frntd Goose	2/27/14	Rainsville Road	SON 8	EuH
Grtr Wht-frntd Goose	3/02/14	Laguna de Santa Rosa	SON 25	MoH
Cackling Goose	3/07/14	Bodega Bay	SON 100+flyover	DaW
Tundra Swan	3/15/14	Shollenberger Park	SON 2	PBC
Eurasian Wigeon	2/25/14	Estero Americano	SON 1 m	DeF
Eurasian Wigeon	3/07-18/14	Doran Regional Pk	SON 1 m	DAH, BDP, mob
Eurasian Wigeon	3/14/14	Hudemann's Slough	SON 1 m	BDP
Blue-winged Teal	3/12-15/14	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON 2 m 1 f	EuH, RoS, mob
Blue-winged Teal	3/12/14	Hudemann's Slough	SON 1 m 1 f	EuH, RoS
Redhead	3/12/14	Hudemann's Slough	SON 1 m	EuH, RoS
Harlequin Duck	3/07-20/14	Bodega Head St. Pk	SON 1 m	DaW, DAH, mob
White-winged Scoter	3/18/14	Bodega Head St. Pk	SON 4	DAW,
Black Scoter	3/12/14	off Doran beach	SON 1 f	EuH, RoS
Black Scoter	3/18/14	Bodega Head St. Pk	SON 2 m	DaW
Long-tailed Duck	3/18/14	Bodega Head St. Pk	SON 1 f	DaW
Hooded Merganser	3/21/14	Shollenberger Park	SON 1 f	BDP
Hooded Merganser	3/10/14	Shiloh Ranch Reg. Pk	SON 8	PeL
Red-necked Grebe	3/07/14	Bodega Head St. Pk	SON 2	DaW
Red-necked Grebe	3/12/14	Bodega Head St. Pk	SON 1	BDP, MaB, DAH
Rough-legged Hawk	3/17/14	near Tolay Creek	SON 1 im	EuH
Pacific Golden Plover	3/12/14	Shollenberger Park	SON 1	EuH, RoS
Marbled Murrelet	3/18/14	Bodega Head St. Pk	SON 1	DaW
Common Poorwill	3/16/14	w. end of Coleman V.	SON 1	KeB, BrD Vaux's
Swift	3/01/14	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON 2	BiD, MAS
Rufous Hummingbird	2/24/14	Sebastopol yard	SON 1 m	ScC
Rufous Hummingbird	3/05/14	Windsor yard	SON 1 m	RiB
Rufous Hummingbird	3/13/14	Owl Canyon	SON 1 m	ScC
Rufous Hummingbird	3/18/14	Petaluma yard	SON 1 m	EuH

CORRECTIONS!

Observations: Jan. 21, 2014-Feb. 20, 2014

Compiled by David A. Hofmann

Species	Date/s	Location	County #	Observer/s
Snow Goose	2/20/14	Petaluma Slough	SON 1	DaB
Eurasian Wigeon	1/29/14	Lake Sonoma V-Ctr	SON 2 m	DaB
Redhead	2/15/14	Hudemann's Slough	SON 3	RRoS Field Trip
Tufted Duck	2/17/14	Lake Hennessey	NAP 1 m	AIM
Long-tailed Duck	2/16/14	Bodega Head St. Pk	SON 1	DaS, JeR
Hooded Merganser	2/13/14	Shollenberger Park	SON 1 f	BoD
Hooded Merganser	2/16/14	Chileno Valley Road	SON 10	DaS, JeR
Hooded Merganser	2/19-20/14	Shollenberger Park	SON 2	RoS, AIW
Red-necked Grebe	1/28/14	Doran Regional Park	SON 1	Br&OrO
Red-necked Grebe	2/12/14	Gleason Beach	SON 1	ROD
Red-necked Grebe	2/12-16/14	Bodega Head St. Pk	SON 2	EuH, ScC
Red-necked Grebe	2/16/14	Bodega bay	SON 1	ScC
Bald Eagle	1/28/14	Bodega harbor	SON 1	Br&OrO
Bald Eagle	2/6/14	Porto Bodega	SON 1	KaM, CyB, ReL
Ferruginous Hawk	1/25/14	Delta Pd/Willowside Rd	SON 1	RRoS Field Trip
Ferruginous Hawk	2/1/14	Petaluma/Mecham Rd	SON 1	MiB
Ferruginous Hawk	2/1/14	E. Railroad Ave	SON 2	AIW
Rough-legged Hawk	1/28/14	Huichica Creek Unit	SON 1	DoM
Rough-legged Hawk	1/30/14	Skagg's Island bridge	SON 2	ROD
Rough-legged Hawk	2/20/14	Penngrove/Adobe Rd	SON 1	JoC
Merlin	2/19/14	Shollenberger Park	SON 1	RoS
Prairie Falcon	2/15/14	Reclamation Road	SON 1	RRoS Field Trip
Gyrfalcon	2/12/14	Ferndale	HUM 1	DoH, RAR, mob
Snowy Plover	2/12/14	Doran Regional Park	SON 19	DeF, BDP, DAH
Pacific Golden Plover	1/30/14	Shollenberger Park	SON 1	LiH
Glaucous Gull	2/12/14	Portuquese Beach	SON 1	EuH, ROD
Black-legged Kittiwake	2/16/14	Bodeag Head St. Pk	SON 2	ScC
Ancient Murrelet	2/16/14	Bodega Head St. Pk	SON 2	ScC
Rufous Hummingbird	2/14/14	Agilent Technologies	SON 1 m	AIW
Lewis's Woodpecker	1/25-2/2/14	Crane Crk Reg. Park	SON 1	LiS,RoS,ROD,WeS
Red-naped Sapsucker	2/16/14	Sepastopol yard	SON 1 m	RiS
Cassin's Vireo	2/14/14	Annadell State Park	SON 1	MoH
Rock Wren	1/22/14	Lake Sonoma dam	SON 2	LiH
Nashville Warbler	2/11-16/14	Diekmann's Store	SON 1	DeF,ROD,EuH,mob
Northern Waterthrush	1/27/14	Diekmann's Store	SON 1	Br&OrO
Brewer's Sparrow	2/18-20/14	Shollenberger Park	SON 1	RoS,EuH,CoT,DaN,MiP

Observers for this period: Dave Barry, Cynthia Boyer, Michael Burns, Scott Carey, Josiah Clark, Bob Dyer, Dea Freid, Moss Henry, David A. Hofmann, Don Howard, Lisa Hugg, Eugene Hunn, Reta Lockert, Alex Merritt, Dominik Mosur, Kathleen Mugele, Dan Nelson, Brook & Orion O'Connor, Rob O'Donnell, Michael Park, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Jen Roth, Ruth Ann Rudesill, Linda Schneider, Dave Shuford, Wendy Standridge, Ron Storey, Richard Stradford, Colin Talcroft, Alan Wight

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ATTENTION MEMBERS: Our stalwart club secretary, **Mike Nelligan**, is giving up his post, as of the **May Potluck Meeting**. We very much need a member to step up to take on this important job. Responsibilities primarily involve taking minutes of meetings, and presenting minutes of previous meetings. Mike will work with whoever volunteers, to smooth the transition.

And a further message about dues from Treasurer Don Howard: "IF YOU ARE RECEIVING KITE TALES BY USPS YOUR MAILING LABEL WILL CONTAIN EITHER A "P" FOR DUES PAID OR AN "O" IF YOUR DUES ARE OUTSTANDING." Please check your label, and take appropriate action.

RROS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS:

LINDA HAMMER and SUZANNE RETA, of Sebastopol, and
WILL and KAREN GERMAN, of Sonoma.

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, alge-throttled surface,

through sedge grass,

to stand to its knees

in water turning grayer,

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

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	823-852
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

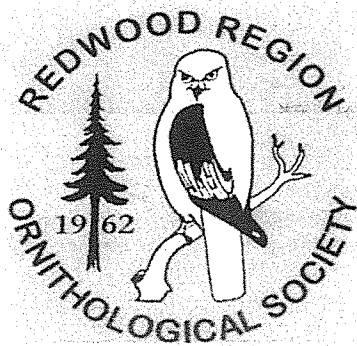
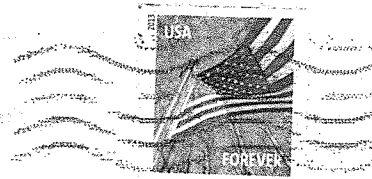
Committee Chairs:

Field Trips – Gene Hunn	Petaluma, 94954.....	enhunn323@comcast.net	981-7301
Pelagic Trips-	Peter Colasanti 524 E. D St., Petaluma, 94952	peter_colasanti@yahoo.com	763-2450
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

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