



Kite Tales

Volume 49 Number 9

May 2014

**RROS General Meeting
May 8, 2014, 5:30pm
Sugarloaf Ridge State Park**

This month, we will entertain ourselves in our usual fine style at the annual spring potluck, and birding, meeting at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park. Bring a dish to share, an extra layer for the evening chill, and your binoculars for the bird walk after the meeting. **Special treat:** Meet our new candidate for Club Secretary!

Directions to the monthly meeting:
From Hwy 12, take Adobe Road, east and uphill, to the park entrance. Park in the large lot on the left, past the entrance kiosk. Meet in the picnic area across from the parking lot. Fee or park pass.



***Bell's Sparrow, Pine Flat Rd.,
By Don Kirker***

Dinner before May General Meeting : This month, there will be no dinner before the meeting. Go directly to Sugarloaf Ridge SP.

Save the Date: September 11, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. Join us at **Sugarloaf Ridge State Park** for the annual fall **potluck** and **50th Anniversary celebration!** 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 – May 2014, and beyond:

Saturday, May 10th: King Ridge Road- We will meet at Gold Coast Bakery in Duncan's Mills, off Hwy 116, at 8:00am. After packing ourselves into as few cars as possible, we will head north to Cazadero, where we will bird the road north of town, before heading up the hill on King Ridge Rd. We'll be making stops all along the road, at birdy spots. The trip will end in early afternoon, just past the top of the hill, at a small private pond, where we always pick up a few extra species for the day. Hoped-for birds will be Dipper and Sooty Grouse, as well as Mountain Quail, Lark Sparrow, Golden Eagle, and the many beautiful and interesting breeding birds that call King Ridge their home. Bring lunch, and layers. Bill Doyle (shortbill@comcast.net) and Helen Kochenderfer, leaders

TUESDAY May 27th: Outer Point Reyes- Meet at Petaluma park n ride, at Hwy's 101 and 116 (Lakewille Hwy), at 7:15 am. We'll travel to the Lighthouse first to look for spring vagrants, then on to the other usual spots. Bring lunch and layered clothing. Leader Ruth Rudesill, 707-833-6026 ruthier@sonic.net

September 7, Sunday: Bodega Canyon & Cordell Banks Pelagic Trip- Mark your calendars to reserve your place on our annual pelagic trip aboard the New Sea Angler out of Bodega Bay. This year we'd also like to do a second trip in November, if there seems to be sufficient interest to fill the boat. Please contact me by email soon, or by mail, when you send in your deposit, to indicate your interest in a November trip. Few trips are done at that time, but it's believed by many to be the best chance for Short-tailed Albatross that many of us are likely to get.

To reserve a berth for September 7, send a check for \$140.00 made out to our treasurer "Don Howard" and mailed to: Peter Colasanti, 524 East D Street, Petaluma, CA 94952-3212. Questions? Contact Peter at 763-2450 or email peter_colasanti@yahoo.com. **(Editor's note: the boat is filling up. Get your checks to Peter ASAP.)**

FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

April 12th, the Mines Rd area outside Livermore, Alameda County and ending Del Puerto Canyon Rd, Santa Clara and Stanislaus County. (Afterward, half the group went on to try for the Marsh Sandpiper but the wind was impossible and the bird wasn't present.)

Eleven eager birders were rewarded with a great day; nice and cool most of the day. Saw or heard 84 species, plus others en route. **Highlights:** Rick LeBaudour spotted our best birds at Del Valle Regional Park - LEWIS'S WOODPECKER on an oak near the top of the grade,

heading for the park kiosk entrance. Several GOLDEN EAGLES soared above. At the bridge over the creek, there were WHITE-THROATED SWIFTS with the swallows, and a WOOD DUCK flew by. A flock of CEDAR WAXWINGS was going to creek and drinking. Several alternate plumaged EARED GREBES were on the lake. Along Mines Rd had great looks at PHAINOPEPLAs at about milepost 8. Saw a mama deer with 2 adorable fawns. RUFOUS-CROWNED SPARROWS were present as well. At around milepost 12, we heard a ROADRUNNER cooing, but it was out of sight downslope (and about 2 dozen Harleys went by just then...) After lunch at The Junction, Rick had a LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH flyover but never got good looks. On Del Puerto Canyon Rd at around 2 miles (Santa Clara County), there is a pond on the north side of the road. There is a colony of TRICOLORED BLACKBIRDS there - we counted around 30. Very noisy and a wonderful sight. RING-NECKED DUCKS were also on this pond. Further down the road, in Stanislaus County, we had great looks at CANYON and ROCK WRENS in a narrow rocky canyon. We only saw a very few Anna's Hummingbirds, and it was too early for some other species. We heard CALIFORNIA THRASHER in every county, but never saw one.

April 26th, Pine Flat- For the seven intrepid birders willing to risk the 7:30am meeting time, the Pine Flat Rd. field trip yielded a birding bounty. Among the highlights of the **58 species** seen were great views of BELL'S SPARROW, a lifer for three members of the group, PURPLE MARTIN, ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER, OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER, HAIRY WOODPECKER, PILEATED WOODPECKER and CALIFORNIA THRASHER. Brief vocals and glimpses of LAZULI BUNTING, and BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER added more great birds to the list. MOUNTAIN QUAIL were heard, but not seen, as were ROUFOUS-CROWNED SPARROW and CASSIN'S VIREO. Participants were leader, Bill Doyle, Rick LeBaudour, David Hofmann, Ruth Rudesill, Elmarie Hutchinson, Denise Herzberg, and Norm Ortman.

Observations: Mar 21, 2014 - Apr 20, 2014

Compiled by David A. Hofmann

| Species | Date/s | Location | County # | Observer/s |
|------------------------|-------------|--|-----------|---------------------|
| Eurasian Wigeon | 4/03/14 | Hudemann Slough | SON 1 m | LoK |
| Blue-winged Teal | 3/20/14 | Shollenberger Park | SON 2 m,f | ScC |
| Blue-winged Teal | 3/28/14 | Ellis Creek Ponds | SON 2 m,f | DaS |
| White-winged Scoter | 3/30/14 | Bodega Head St. Pk | SON 1 | ScC |
| White-winged Scoter | 4/13/14 | Bodega Head St. Pk | SON 2 | DoM,LoK,LiH,BrM |
| Black Scoter | 3/27/14 | Bodega Head St. Pk | SON 1 f | DaW |
| American Bittern | 4/20/14 | Lake Ilsanjo | SON 1 | DaE |
| Black Vulture | 3/21/14 | Tolay Creek Ranch | SON 1 | StP, JoC |
| | | (first Sonoma county record to be reviewed by CBRC) | | |
| Black Vulture | 4/13-14/14 | Bodega Farm Pond/Joy Rd | SON 1 | DoM,LoK,LiH,BrM,JoL |
| Black Vulture | 4/16/14 | Laguna Road | SON 1 | GoB |
| Ferruginous Hawk | 3/22/14 | Tolay Lake Reg. Park | SON 1 | WeD |
| Ferruginous Hawk | 4/14/14 | Joy Rd X Bodega Hwy | SON 1 | RiL, mob |
| Swainson's Hawk | 4/03/14 | Hudemann Slough | SON 1 | LoK |
| Swainson's Hawk | 4/18/14 | Petaluma River | SON 1 | DaW |
| Prairie Falcon | 4/03/14 | Reclamation Road | SON 1 | LoK |
| Pacific Golden Plover | 4/13/14 | Shollenberger Park | SON 1 | DoM,LoK,LiH,BrM |
| Snowy Plover | 3/23-4/8/14 | Doran Regional Park | SON 9 | BrM, DAH, BDP, TeE |
| Marsh Sandpiper | 4/09-12/14 | Liberty Island Road | SOL 1 | RoM, mob |
| Marbled Murrelet | 3/27/14 | Bodega Head St. Pk | SON 4 | DaW |

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|------------------------|--------------|----------------------|-----|-----|--------------------|
| Rhinoceros Auklet | 3/27/14 | Bodega Head St. Pk | SON | 2 | DaW |
| Rufous Hummingbird | 4/3-4/14 | Sebastopol yard | SON | 1 m | ScC |
| Lewis's Woodpecker | 3/30-4/15/14 | Crane Creek Reg. Pk | SON | 1 | BiD,HeK,mob cont'd |
| Loggerhead Shrike | 3/22/14 | Tolay Lake Reg. Park | SON | 1 | WeD |
| Horned Lark | 3/25/14 | Tolay Creek Ranch | SON | 6 | PBC, mob |
| Rock Wren | 3/25/14 | Tolay Creek Ranch | SON | 1 | PBC, mob |
| Nashville Warber | 3/23/14 | Diekmann's Store | SON | 1 | BrM, mob cont'd |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak | 4/08-10/14 | Santa Rosa Crk Trail | SON | 1 m | DoK,RAR,BiD,EuH |
| Great-tailed Grackle | 3/28/14 | Ellis Creek Ponds | SON | 5 | DaS |
| Red Crossbill | 4/05/14 | Coleman Valley Rd | SON | 2 | BrM, mob |

Observers for this period: Gordon Beebe, Scott Carey, Josiah Clark, Peter B. Colasanti, Wendy Dandridge, Bill Doyle, Daniel Edelstein, Ted Eliot, David A. Hofmann, Lisa Hug, Rick LeBaudour, Logan Kahle, Don Kirker, Helen Kochenderfer, John Luther, Bruce Mast, Dominic Mosur, Roger Muscat, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Steve Phillips, Ruth Ann Rudesill, Dave Shuford, David Wimpfheimer, Dan Williams

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

"PISHING with PARMETER" ROCK SANDPIPERS AT THE SONOMA COAST

On 2/24/68, while birding at Mussel Point, 4 Rock Sandpipers were seen in the company of Surfbirds and Black Turnstones. The Rock Sandpipers were in winter plumage. Later, on 2/12/69, 2 birds were seen at Mussel Point, again in winter plumage, with rockbirds. A single bird, in breeding plumage (showing black on the breast) appeared at the same spot on 4/19/69. The following fall, on 12/20/69, a single bird was at the Bodega Marine Lab, and a month later, on 1/10/70, 3 birds were present at Mussel Point. That same date a single bird was seen on the jetty at the entrance to Bodega Harbor (possibly 4 total birds).

The next fall, on 11/4/70, 3 birds showed up at Bodega Head, again in the company of Black Turnstones and Surfbirds (as almost seems the usual pattern). A single bird was noted at Bodega Head on 1/30/71. Nearly a year later, 12/18/71, 2 birds were seen at the Head. Again, on 3/5/72, 2 birds were present here. Over a year later, 12/8 /73, 4 birds in winter plumage were at Bodega Head. On 1/2/74 2 birds were seen at Bodega Head, the Marine Lab, and Mussel Point. Probably some of those sightings were of the same individuals.

The following fall, 11/30/74, 2 birds were noted at Bodega Head, and 3 birds were present at this spot on 1/3/75. A single bird was recorded at the Marine Lab on 1/16/76. Two birds were noted at the Head on 1/8/77, and 3 were here on 3/30/77. On 12/31/78 one bird was found at Bodega Head (back for another year). Three birds were at the Head 2/11/79. Two birds were found 1/27/80, and 2 again on 12/26/80. The birds returned annually in the winter, with a high count of 4 birds on 1/18/81.

Other records include: 2/28/87 Kurt Campbell, 2/28/88 Rich Stallcup, and 12/2/96 Greg Jackson. Two more recent records: 11/23/03 Bodega Head, David Hofmann. This bird remained until 2/8/04. The last record is 1/18/10, a single bird on the jetty, Heather Cameron. All sightings are my own unless otherwise noted. I wish this species would return regularly to our area, and in numbers as previously seen. *Mike~*

Breaking News: A generous new member has stepped forward to relieve **Mike Nelligan** of his responsibilities as club **Secretary**. Thank you, Mike, for your service to the club in this role, and your many contributions. Join us at the May Potluck Meeting to vote the **New Secretary** into office, and onto the board of directors.

Purple Martins

If we too were such and the same as these,
Maybe we too would be slingers and sliders,
Tumbling half over in the water mirrors,
Tumbling half over at the horse heads of the sky,
Tumbling our purple numbers.

Twirl on, you and your satin blue.
Be water birds, be air birds.
Be these purple tumblers that you are.

Dip and get away
From loops into slip knots
Write your own ciphers and figure eights.
It is your wooded island here in Lincoln Park,
Everybody knows this belongs to you.

Five fat geese
Eat sod on a grass bank,
And never count your slinging ciphers,
Your sliding figure eights.

A man on a green paint iron bench
Slouches his feet and sniffs in a book,
And looks at you and your loops and slip knots,
And looks at you and your sheaths of satin blue,
And slouches again and sniffs in the book,
And mumbles: It is an idle and a doctrinaire exploit.

Go on tumbling half over in the water mirrors.
Go on tumbling half over at the horse heads of the sun.
Be water birds, be air birds.
Be these purple tumblers that you are.

Carl Sandburg

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:

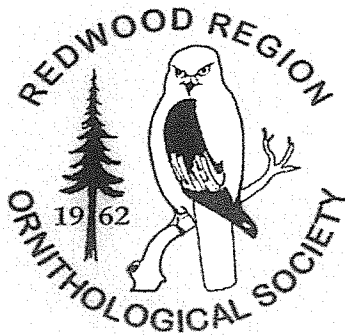
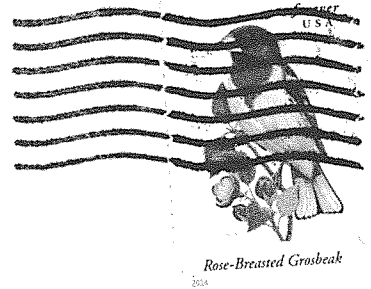
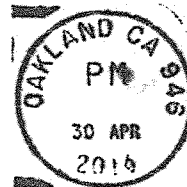
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|---|--|----------|
| President - Bill Doyle- 1966 Belmont Ct, Santa Rosa, 95404 | shortbill@comcast.net | 483-87. |
| Vice Pres. - Terry Haag- 1340 Big Plum Dr., Sebastopol, 95472 | teresitahaag@comcast.net | 823-852. |
| Secretary - Mike Nelligan- 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
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GRATIS

