



Kite Tales

Volume 50 Number 1

September 2014

**RROS General Meeting
September 11, 2014, 5:30pm
Sugarloaf Ridge State Park**

This month, we will entertain ourselves in our usual fine style at the annual fall 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!



Black and White Warbler, Owl Canyon, by Roger Marlowe

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. Pay fee or display your park pass.

Dinner before October General Meeting : 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, October 9th, 2014, at 7:00 p.m.

John McCaull, the Land Acquisition Project Manager for the Sonoma Valley, will speak about the Sonoma Land Trust's work to protect the Sonoma Valley Wildlife Corridor.

FIELD TRIPS – September 2014 and beyond: Gene Hunn, 707-981-7301; enhunn323@comcast.net, Coordinator:

September 7, 2014., Sunday: Bodega Canyon and Cordell Banks aboard the New Sea Angler out of Bodega Bay. Peter Colasanti, organizer. Led by all.

September 13, 2014, Saturday: Bodega Bay Shorebirds and Seabirds: Meet at the big dirt parking lot on Westside Road at Bayflat Rd, 8:30 AM. We will bird around Bodega Harbor from Doran Spit to Bodega Head, checking the bay mudflats for shorebirds and whatever else following the tides and for rocky shore species and pelagics on the jetties and on the rocky far shore. Bring a lunch or have some chowder at Spud Point. Gene Hunn et al. leading (enhunn323@comcast.net, 981-7301). Heavy rains cancel.

September 27, 2013, Saturday: Bodega Bay Hot Spots for migrants. Leader TBA. Meet at the big dirt parking lot on Westside Road at Bayflat Rd, 8:30 AM. We will check such famed vagrant traps as Hole-in-the-Head, Owl Canyon, the Rail Ponds, and Diekmann's Overlook; we plan also to check Bodega Head for rocky shore species and pelagics and the bay mudflats for shorebirds and whatever else. Heavy rains cancel.

September 30, Tuesday, Outer Point Reyes. Leader is Ruth Rudesill. We go in search of fall variants at Pt Reyes. Meet at the Petaluma Park 'n' Ride at 7:15 a.m. for carpooling (off Lakeville Hwy at the junction with Hwy 101). Bring optics, lunch, layers, and money as we will stop at the Bovine bakery! Heavy rain cancels.

October 11-12, 2014, Saturday-Sunday: WFO convention, San Diego.

October 25, 2014, Saturday: Napa-Sonoma Marshes. Leader is Murray Berner (vireocity@hotmail.com). This is a full day field trip designed to explore the varied habitats of the marsh and grasslands north of San Pablo Bay in Napa and Sonoma Counties. We will begin our exploration by touring the Napa wastewater facility (sewage ponds) at the end of Soscol Ferry Road. We have full access to caravan the perimeter of the four large settling ponds, a resting place for thousands of ducks, grebes and gulls. Next, for raptors, a visit to the adjacent N. Kelly Road spray fields below the escarpment of Suscol Ridge. A typical fall assemblage of hawks, eagles and falcons might total 40 individuals of 7-8 species. >From there it's on to the tidal flats of American Canyon Wetlands, located at the corner of Eucalyptus Drive and Wetlands Edge Road. There is a birdwatcher-friendly rising late morning tide. After lunch, we will ride the back roads of the region – mostly in Sonoma County – exploring Milton, Cuttings Wharf, Duhig, Las Amigas, Buchli Station, and Ramal Roads, checking out all ponds and "good-looking habitat" that we come across. We will be sure to incorporate an afternoon hike in the Hudeman Slough area of the Sonoma Wetlands. The pinnacle of the outing will be a dusk wait at Huichica Creek WA for the appearance of owls hunting over the marsh and grassland mosaic. Possibilities include Short-eared, Barn, and Great-horned.

Meet at the Park and Ride in Petaluma (Lakeville St. (Hwy.116/Hwy. 101) at 7am, or the corner of 8th Street and Highway 12 near Schellville at 7:30am. Bring enough food for a very full day and plenty of water. Dress appropriately (layers). Some folding chairs would make the lunch break more comfortable. Carpooling is strongly recommended, especially at the wastewater facility.

October 26, 2014, Sunday: 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 expert Logan Kahle with Peter Colasanti (763-2450). Heavy rains cancel. Details TBA.

November 8, 2014, Saturday: 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 Region 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. Andy Lacasse (763-5167) leads. Bring lunch and water. Heavy rains cancel.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS: Sierra Valley/Yuba Pass RROS field trip June 13-15, 2014.

Fifteen stalwart observers joined Leader, Gene Hunn, including many who knew the area very well, at Donner Memorial Picnic Area, on Friday morning, where we encountered the Williamson's Sapsucker pair, which have been nesting there for a number of years. Participants included Don Howard, Ian Morrison, Ken Wilson and Becky Olson, Bill and Rita Bevans, Terry and Gary Haag, Mike Nelligan and Betty Burrige, Ellen Bingel, Bill Doyle and Helen Kochenderfer, and Gene and Nancy Hunn. Mostly we camped at Cottonwood Creek Campground – a favorite of many RROS veterans. Cottonwood Creek camp proved highly productive with more than 40 species counted in the campground during our stay, including Common Nighthawk, poorwill, Vaux's and White-throated Swifts, a territorial male Calliope Hummer, Red-breasted Sapsucker, White-headed and Pileated Woodpeckers, Hammond's Flycatcher, Cassin's and Warbling Vireos, Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creepers, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Nashville, Hermit, Audubon's, and Wilson's Warblers, Western Tanagers, Green-tailed Towhee, Chipping and Song Sparrows, Cassin's Finches, and cooperative Red Crossbills on Sunday morning. The stand-out bird was a close Flammulated Owl, which called continuously, every night of our stay. The subsequent tour of the valley floor produced good numbers of the expected birds, including Sandhill Cranes. Sage brush habitat produced many Sage Thrashers and Horned Larks, as well as Brewer's, Vesper, and Savannah Sparrows. A large family of Barn Owls was found under a hay shed roof.

Saturday began with a visit to a Black-backed Woodpecker nest, in the burn at Calpine Summit. Chicks were present in the nest, and an adult was glimpsed leaving. A number of White-headed Woodpeckers were working the trees around us.

Birding was great at Yuba Pass, with Cassin's Finches, Pine Siskins, and Evening Grosbeaks along the road, with an active Red-breasted Sapsucker nest close by. The fields along the dirt road north of the campground yielded singing Lazuli Bunting, Chipping, Lincoln's, and

Fox Sparrows, along with abundant Hermit Thrushes. Orange-crowned, Nashville, and MacGillivray's Warblers flitted through the willows. A stop at the SF State Field Station yielded the very rare Veery. Lunch at Bassett's produced the dependable Calliope and Anna's hummers. Stops at Sand Pond Marsh, Graeagle, and other spots around the valley finished out the day. Many of the participants headed home on Sunday am, after a final productive tour of the campground. Additional great birds, such as Gray Flycatcher, Canyon and Rock Wrens, and Osprey, were seen by the few who remained on Sunday. Trip tally : 121 species.

Observations: Apr. 21, 2014-Aug. 20, 2014

Compiled by David A. Hofmann

Specie/s	Date/s	Location	County #	Observer/s
Long-tailed Duck	4/24-5/1/14	Doran Regional Pk	SON 1 m	DaS, LeB, mob
Hooded Merganser	5/11/14	Lake Sonoma	SON 1 m	EmH
American Bittern	5/6/14	Spring Lake Reg. Pk	SON 1	RAR
White-faced Ibis	5/11/14	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON 1	JaH
White-faced Ibis	5/29/14	Bodega Head State Pk	SON 16	JaS fly-by
White-faced Ibis	6/4/14	Adobe Rd x Wagner Ln	SON 9	BDP
Black Vulture	8/8/14	Larkfield yard "Carol"	SON 1	fide CoT
Swainson's Hawk	5/13/14	S.E. Santa Rosa	SON 1	EmH
Swainson's Hawk	5/16/14	Hwy 101/Cotati Grade	SON 1	BeO
Swainson's Hawk	6/28/14	Hudeman's Slough	SON 1	LiH
Pacific Golden Plover	8/14-20/14	Shollenberger Park	SON 1	NoA, LiH
Solitary Sandpiper	5/1/14	N. Petaluma	SON 1	RoW
Whimbrel	5/8-10/14	mouth of Salmon Crk	SON 72	ScC, Br&OrOC
Long-billed Curlew	5/10/14	mouth of Salmon Crk	SON 1	Br&OrOC
Red Knot	5/8/14	Porto Bodega	SON 2	LeB
Red Knot	5/10/14	mouth of Salmon Crk	SON 8	Br&OrOC
Red Knot	7/8/14	Bodega Harbor/Spud Pt	SON 1	RAR
Semipalmtd Sandpiper	7/28/14	Doran Regional Pk	SON 1 juv	LiH
Wilson's Phalarope	6/28/14	Hudeman's Slough	SON 1	LiH
Wilson's Phalarope	7/28-8/3/14	Bodega Farm Pond	SON 5	DeF, ScC, mob
Red-necked Phalarope	5/8/14	mouth of Salmon Crk	SON 14	ScC
Red-necked Phalarope	5/10/14	Doran Regional Pk	SON 3	DeF
Laughing Gull	5/3/14	Bodega Harbor/Gafney Pt	SON 1	RiL, LiH
Franklin's Gull	4/21/14	Porto Bodega	SON 1	TiL
Franklin's Gull	5/3/14	mouth of Russian River	SON 1	RiL
Black Skimmer	5/7/14	Shollenberger Park	SON 2	JaT
Marbled Murrelet	6/25/14	S.Fork Gualala River bridge	SON 3+	RAR
Marbled Murrelet	8/17/14	Bodega Head State Pk	SON 2	ScC
Rhinoceros Auklet	7/8/14	Bodega Bay	SON 1	RAR
Common Nighthawk	6/30/14	Bodega Marine Lab	SON 1	fide JaS, photos
Lewis's Woodpecker	5/5/14	Crane Crk Reg. Pk	SON 1	KaM cont'd
Yellow-throated Vireo	6/4-5/14	Bodega Head State Pk	SON 1	DaN, mob
Gray Jay	6/25/14	Annapolis/Annapolis Rd	SON 4	RAR
Mountain Bluebird	6/2/14	Bloomfield Cemetery	SON 1 m	EuH
Gray Catbird	6/8/14	Bodega Head State Pk	SON 1	DAH
Northern Parula	5/19-28/14	Pine Flat Road	SON 1	RiC, DaSw, mob
Northern Parula	6/15-18/14	Old Gravenstein x Todd Rd	SON 1	AIW, EuH, mob
Magnolia Warbler	6/7/14	Bodega Head State Pk	SON 1 m	DaN
MacGillivray's Warbler	7/9/14	Spring Lake Reg. Pk	SON 1 m	RAR singing
MacGillivray's Warbler	8/11/14	Petaluma/Lynch Crk	SON 1	AIW
White-thrted Sparrow	5/9/14	Sebastopol yard	SON 1	MaJ
White-thrted Sparrow	5/26/14	Santa Rosa yard	SON 1	BiD

Observers for this period: Noah Arthur, Len Blumin, Bill Doyle, Scott Carey, Rich Cimino, Dea Freid, Emily Heaton, David A. Hofmann, Jared Hubbell, Lisa Hug, Marilyn Jones, Rick LeBaudour, Tiann Lordan, Kathy Mugele, Brook & Orion O'Connor, Becky Olsen, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Ruth Ann Rudesill, Dave Shuford, Jackie Sones, Danny Swicegood, Colin Talcroft, Jason Thompson, Alan Wight, Robin Winning

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

"PISHING with PARMETER"

The first Kite Tales is dated Nov. 1967. This is Vol. 1, No. 1. I have a complete set. The speaker that month, at Charles Darwin Hall, was Lynn Stafford, talking about Hawaiian birds. It carries an announcement of the Nov. field trip to Conn Lake, Napa County. It notes that at the Oct. meeting A. Warren Larson spoke and showed beautiful slides of the Great Gray Owl. Marta Mayer was hostess and provided tasty refreshments.

The Oct. field trip had been to Outer Point Reyes, headed by the "able leadership" of Jack Guggolz. Highlights of this trip were: Hermit Warbler, White-winged Scoter (they were more common in those days), and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. The last page notes that Jack Guggolz was president, Robert Failing vice president, and Gordon Bolander editor and corresponding secretary. Gordy was also the artist of our logo. Jack Arnold served as program chairman and Mike Parmeter as field trip chairman.

The January 1968 copy notes that the Santa Rosa Christmas count was very successful; 126 species seen, and 29,482 individuals. The Jan. field trip was to be to Tomales Bay, with Mike Parmeter as leader. The Dec. program had been presented by Dr. Arnold; slides to assist in identifying birds on the Christmas count. A motion was passed to raise the annual dues from \$2 to \$3. Gordon Bolander announced that he would keep a club life list; thus a copy of all field trip reports should be sent to him. The Feb. program would be on the birds of Timber Hill by Gordon Bolander. There was a report of 5 Trumpeter Swans at Laguna de Santa Rosa. Unfortunately, this observation did not survive the CA Bird Records Committee, and was removed from the Sonoma County list.

The Feb. '68 issue told of the Jan. meeting's delightful talk about the Carribean Islands given by Dr. Kenneth Burdon. The trip to Tomales Bay totaled 102 species, bringing the club life list to 248 species. Best birds: Virginia Rail, Greater Yellowlegs, American Avocet, and Violet-green Swallow.

The March '68 program, presented by Larry Carl, focused on Australia and New Zealand. The March field trip was scheduled for Laguna de Santa Rosa. An offshore trip aboard the Finback was announced for April 20. Cost: \$7.50 (oh, for the good old days!). The Olmsteads hosted. The Jan. field trip included 4 Rock Sandpipers; the club's life list went to 250. Ann Brockman took over as club treasurer.

The April '68 speaker, U.C. grad student Carl Bocks, outlined his doctoral studies of Lewis' Woodpecker. Aileen Trine joined as a new member.

At the May meeting, Bob Failing was installed as president, Wilfred Olmstead vice president, Marta Mayer continued as recording secretary, Gordon Bolander as corresponding secretary, and Mike Parmeter as field trip chairman. The McDuffees served refreshments. The May 4 field trip was up Ida Clayton Road. Highlights were 2 Pygmy Owls and Black-chinned Sparrows (at least 4 singing).

There you have the club's activities as told in the first year of the Kite Tales. Busy then, as we are now. Lots of birds, birding trips, and excellent programs. The club life list reached 251, the latest addition being the Tufted Puffin on the offshore trip. *Mike~*

NOTE: Tributes to, and donations in honor of, Joel Hornstein will appear in the **October K.T.**

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
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SM-GRATIS

