



# Kite Tales

Volume 50 Number 2

October 2014



*Virginia Rail, at Ellis Creek, by Will German*

**RROS General Meeting  
October 9, 2014, 7p.m.  
at Laguna Wastewater Treatment Facility,  
4300 Llano Road, Santa Rosa**

**The Sonoma Valley Wildlife Corridor: Using Wildlife Photography in Conservation Design:** The Sonoma Land Trust initiated the Sonoma Valley Wildlife Corridor Project in 2013 with the goal of ensuring safe passage for wildlife by assessing, protecting and enhancing essential corridor components. **John McCaull**, Land Acquisition

Manager for the Sonoma Valley will discuss the use of wildlife camera technology and conservation biology in land protection work. We will have an opportunity to learn more about the work Sonoma Land Trust is doing to preserve and protect the wild places of our beautiful county.

### ***Save the Date:***

#### **General Meeting for Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 7 p.m.**

**Gordon Beebe**, President of the Madrone Audubon Society, will present a program about the Colombian southern Andes and intermountain valleys. The presentation will feature photos, videos and audio recordings of this beautiful and biologically rich area.

**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 left.

**Dinner Before the monthly 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.

#### **FIELD TRIPS – Autumn 2014: 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.

## Observations: Aug. 21, 2014-Sept. 20, 2014

Compiled by David A. Hofmann

Specie/s	Date/s	Location	County #	Observer/s
Black Storm-Petrel	9/7/14	RR0S Pelagic	MAR/SON 25	EuH, mob
Swainson's Hawk	9/12/14	Glen Ellen	SON 1	RAR
Ferruginous Hawk	9/6/14	Jenner Headlands	SON 1 juv	KaM, mob
Pacific Golden Plover	8/21-23/14	Shollenberger Park	SON 1	LiA, KhS, LiH, mob
Lesser Yellowlegs	9/6/14	Salmon Crk/Bean Ave	SON 1	LiH, mob
Red Knot	9/12-18/14	Doran Regional Park	SON 2	EuH, mo
Baird's Sandpiper	9/6/14	Doran Regional Park	SON 1	LiH, mob
Baird's Sandpiper	9/12/14	Carmody Road ponds	SON 1	BDP, StG
Pectoral Sandpiper	9/17/14	Carmody Road ponds	SON 1	LiH
Pectoral Sandpiper	9/18/14	Doran Regional Park	SON 1	LiH
Red-necked Phalarope	9/12/14	Salmon Creek	SON 2	EiH, mob
Parasitic Jaeger	9/5/14	Doran Regional Park	SON 1	EuH
Parasitic Jaeger	9/18/14	Bodega Head St. Pk	SON 1	LiH
Long-tailed Jaeger	9/7/14	RR0S Pelagic	MAR/SON 1	EuH, mob
Common Tern	9/18/14	Doran Regional Park	SON 2	LiH
Least Tern	8/23/14	Doran Regional Park	SON 1	LiH, NoO, WiG, mob
Black Swift	9/10/14	Jenner Headlands	SON 6	KaM, mob
Willow Flycatcher	8/21/14	Occidental yard	SON 1	MiH
Willow Flycatcher	8/21-23/14	Shollenberger Park	SON 1	CF, LiH, mob
Willow Flycatcher	9/5-10/14	Owl Canyon	SON 2	DaN, mob
Hammond's Flycatcher	9/16/14	Campbell Cove	SON 1	EuH, mob
Philadelphia Vireo	9/3/14	Owl Canyon	SON 1	EuH
Red-eyed Vireo	8/29-9/6/14	Owl Canyon	SON 1	DaE, BrM, mob
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	9/12/14	Owl Canyon	SON 1	BDP, mob
Gray Catbird	8/28-9/13/14	Owl Canyon	SON 1	PeC, RoO, DeF
American Pipit	9/12/14	Bodega Head St. Prk	SON 1	DaN
Tennessee Warbler	9/20/14	BML Entrance Road	SON 1	DaN, mob
Nashville Warbler	8/26/14	Doran Regional Park	SON 1	DeF
Chestnut-sided Warbler	9/5-6/14	Owl Canyon	SON 1m	DaN, DAH, LiH, mob
Chestnut-sided Warbler	9/14/14	Hole-in-the-Head	SON 1	WiR, DaN,
mobHermit Warbler	8/21-23/14	Owl Canyon	SON 1	DeF, DoK, HeK,
Hermit Warbler	9/3-9/14	Owl Canyon	SON 1	EuH, mob
Blackburnian Warbler	9/9-11/14	Owl Canyon	SON 1 im	DaN, mob
Blackburnian Warbler	9/20/14	BML Entrance Road	SON 1	DaN, DoK, mob
Prairie Warbler	9/14/14	BML Entrance Road	SON 1	JaS, DaN, mob
Prairie Warbler	9/16/14	Owl Canyon	SON 1	RoO
Prairie Warbler	9/18/14	Hole-in-the-Head	SON 1	LiH, DaN, LiV,
Palm Warbler	9/19/14	Owl Canyon	SON 1	RiL
Blackpoll Warbler	9/15-19/14	BML Entrance Road	SON 2	DaN, mob
Black & White Warbler	8/23-31/14	Owl Canyon	SON 2	HeK, DoK, DaE, mob
Black & White Warbler	9/6/14	Owl Canyon	SON 1	RAR
Black & White Warbler	9/12-20/14	Campbell Cove	SON 1m	BrO, DaN, BDP, mob
American Redstart	8/26/14	Russian Gulch Park	SON 1	LiH
American Redstart	8/26/14	Doran Regional Park	SON 1m	DeF
American Redstart	8/30-9/13/14	Owl Canyon	SON 1	MaD, DeF, RAR
American Redstart	9/10-14/14	Campbell Cove	SON 1	BrO, mob
American Redstart	9/10/14	Jenner gas station	SON 1 f	KaM, mob
Northern Waterthrush	8/28/14	Campbell Cove	SON 1	DeW
Northern Waterthrush	8/30/14	Rail Ponds	SON 1	MaD, DeF
Northern Waterthrush	9/12/14	Campbell Cove	SON 1	BrO, mob
MacGillivray's Warbler	9/6-9/14	Owl Canyon	SON 2	DaN, mob
Chipping Sparrow	8/26/14	Owl Canyon	SON 1 juv	LiH, LiF, LeN
Clay-colored Sparrow	9/20/14	Campbell Cove	SON 1	DaN, DoK, BDP
Fox Sparrow	9/12-17/14	Owl Canyon	SON 2	DeF, mob
White-throated Sparrow	9/3/14	Sebastopol yard	SON 1	MaJ
Golden-crwnd Sparrow	9/11/14	Sebastopol yard	SON 1	ScC
Orchard Oriole	9/9/14	Owl Canyon	SON 1	DaN, mob
Hooded Oriole	9/16-19/14	BML Entrance Road	SON 1 im	BrO, DaN, mob

**Observers for this period:** Lishka Arata, Scott Carey, Peter Colasanti, Mathew Dodder, Daniel Edelstein, C. Faul, Linda Fisher, Will German, Steve Gerstle, Mike Heffernon, David A. Hofmann, Lisa Hug, Eugene Hunn, Marilyn Jones, Don Kirker, Helen Kochenderfer, Rick LeBaudour, Bruce Mast, Kathy Mugele, Dan Nelson, Leah Norwood, Brook O'Connor, Rob O'Donnell, Norm Ortman, Benjamin D. Parmeter, William Rockey, Ruth Ann Rudesill, Jackie Sones, Khara Strum, Link VanCleeve, Denise Wight  
**The compiler apologizes and takes full responsibility for omissions or errors regarding this list.**

**Joel Hornstein-** Long time RROS member and benefactor Joel Hornstein, passed away last May 24, 2014. He is survived by his wife Linda, and will be missed by all who knew him. Below are some comments about Joel, by his birding and personal pal, Deyea Harper:

*"Joel was not in on the founding of RROS, but part of the founding group of Madrone Audubon. Beyond Mike Parmeter, not sure if any RROS founders are still alive. Joel did participate in RROS while they lived in Santa Rosa by working on the Christmas Counts, leading field trips, giving programs, and enjoying meetings. When he went to NC to get his Masters he returned to Calif, but settled in Yuba City and participated in RROS from afar. He kept trip bird lists on a regular basis, and enjoyed "chasing rare birds" in CA. He and Linda enjoyed feeding birds in the back yard, and photographing as many as he could get in focus where ever they traveled. I think his life list was over 600 birds, and he religiously filled in his notebook of sightings after every trip. He also worked on Cornell Breeding Bird surveys in the Sierra, and Lake County, and some years participated in 5 different Christmas bird counts. Even in a foreign country, Joel had his binoculars to his eyes and the bird guide in hand. He was particularly excited when his brother, Martin, took up birding in New Jersey. Joel not only looked at birds, but the native plants, and all of nature with delight."*

**Donations to RROS in Joel's honor were made by the following: Linda Hornstein, Gary and Terry Haag, Don Howard, Mike and Ruthmary Parmeter, Charles and Marilyn Wallin, Katherine Grimes, Donna Murrill, and Patricia Flanders.**

**General donations to RROS were also received from: Ted Eliot, Don McCarthy, and Don Howard.**

**New Members: RROS welcomes new members: Linda Endicott, Bob and Carol Hasenick, and Norm Ortman.**

**Pishing with Parmeter~** Last month, I summarized the first year of the Kite Tales. This time, it's a summary of the second set of the journal. I won't continue with this sequence after this, but may occasionally comment on other years. Number One is the November '68 issue...there must not have been a September or October issue. The speaker for November was Charles Brown, a PhD candidate from Berkeley. He spoke on the biology of the *Ensatina* Salamander. The talk was given at Room 112 of Darwin Hall, at Sonoma State University. That room was to serve as our meeting place until the death of Dr. John Arnold, our sponsor there. A field trip was announced for Gray Lodge WMA, where we had many field trips over the years. The 1968 Christmas Bird Count was announced, as was an appeal for volunteers. Also, the first West Sonoma County CBC was announced in that issue. Dorothy Radcliff, who became a long-term member of RROS, read a letter of appreciation from a guest on a previous field

trip. Our field trip of the previous month was to Point Reyes, and was led by Jack Guggolz. 57 species were recorded, of which Rough-legged Hawk was best bird.

The program for December meeting featured Robert Rubin, of SRJC, on the co-existence of Elegant and Caspian Terns. The field trip to Gray Lodge recorded as best birds: Mountain Bluebird, 225 Whistling Swans, Rock Wren, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. These four new species brought the club life list to 256 species. At the February meeting, the presenter showed slides he had taken on this trip.

The January, 1969 program had featured a talk by Dr. John Arnold about his work in Oaxaca, Mexico, collecting small land mammals.

The February issue of Kite Tales included a list of bird species recorded in Sonoma County up to that time: 242. That list is now more than 200 species higher, at 446!

I was the presenter of the March, 1969 meeting, discussing the birds seen in Oaxaca, on a twelve day trip with Dr. Arnold. In that issue of Kite Tales, a pelagic trip was announced, for which the fee was \$10!

The April, 1969 meeting featured John Shmail, discussing the research being performed on the Farallon Islands. The April field trip was to be led by Gordon Bolander, to the Laguna de Santa Rosa. The field trip to Bodega Bay recorded a lengthy species list, of which some of the best birds were, American Bittern, Wandering Tattler, and Townsend's Warbler. The McDuffees provided the meeting refreshments.

The May, 1969 meeting ushered in new officers: President- Peter Leveque; Vice-president- Baron McLean; Treasurer- Mike Parmeter; Recording Secretary- Dorothy Radcliff; and Corresponding Secretary- Perry Sheen. The May field trip was to Ida Clayton Rd. Dorothy Radcliff provided refreshments. Also mentioned in this issue was the dedication of the Spaulding Memorial, which was financed by RROS. The only result of the April pelagic trip was that it was turned back, due to rough water. The Laguna field trip produced Green Heron, Wood Duck, Lesser Yellowlegs, California Thrasher, and Loggerhead Shrike. We also had a June meeting that year, with a program about Audubon Canyon Ranch, and a field trip to the Russian River, led by L.W. Beeman. The dues for 1969 were \$3.00, and fifty cents for juniors.

**Ponderings...** I don't know about you, but I've often wondered what the name "Eagle" really means. We all feel we know what an Eagle is...a very large bird of prey, but that's not much of a definition. For instance, why isn't the Ferruginous Hawk our smallest Eagle, rather than our largest hawk? And, certainly, Bald Eagles and Golden Eagles are very different birds. Here's what the Bird Watcher's Companion has to say: "*Ornithologically, the term 'Eagle' refers to the largest of the diurnal birds of prey. These do not form a unified taxonomic group, however, and in some cases it would not be inaccurate to describe them as large or very large hawks.*" This description implies to me that "Eagle" is simply a term of convenience, a generally agreed upon common name to differentiate a relatively small group of birds from a much larger group, the Hawks, for which a detailed description can be given. What do you think? **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**

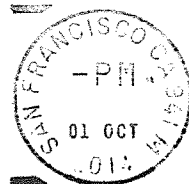
President - Bill Doyle	1966 Belmont Ct., Santa Rosa, 95404	<a href="mailto:shortbill@comcast.net">shortbill@comcast.net</a>	483-8773
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**Committee Chairs**

Field Trips - Gene Hunn,	204 Fair Ave., 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 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., SRosa, 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**  
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