



Kite Tales

Volume 50 Number 5

January 2015



Least Bittern, Foothill Regional Park, by Rick LeBaudour

**RROS General Meeting,
January 14, 2015 7p.m.,
First United Methodist Church
1551 Montgomery Ave., Santa Rosa, CA
(NEW LOCATION)**

IMPORTANT NOTICE~

Directions to new monthly meeting: From Hwy 101, take the "Downtown" exit. Head east on 3rd St., through downtown, until it becomes Montgomery, after crossing Brookwood. Continue east on Montgomery, past Memorial Hospital. The meeting hall and parking lot is directly opposite Macklyn Ave, on Montgomery.

Monthly Meeting for Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at 7 p.m.

Colors in Birds~ Why are many birds so brightly colored? Where does the color come from? What makes hummingbirds so special? **Robert Lewis**, of **Wingbeats**, will answer these questions and discuss feather structure, molt and bird behavior. His presentation will be illustrated with his outstanding photographs.

Save the Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Samantha Arthur, Conservation Project Manager for Audubon, California, will discuss the work being done to further conservation of California's endangered blackbird, the Tricolored Blackbird.

Dinner Before the monthly meeting: This month, join us at **5:30pm** at **Mary's Pizza**, at 535 Summerfield Rd, Santa Rosa, across from Howarth Park. From 101, take Hwy 12 east to Hoen Ave exit. Continue east on Hoen, to Summerfield, then north on Summerfield to the restaurant.

FIELD TRIPS – January 2015, and beyond:**January 10-11, Saturday and/or January 11, Sunday, 2015: January 10,**

Saturday: Walnut Grove/Thornton wintering waterfowl concentrations and the Consumnes River Reserve. Ken Wilson will lead. Meet at the junction of Stanly Road and State Highway 12/29 just south of Napa at 8 AM. We will then proceed through Fairfield on Highway 12 to State Highway 113, then north to Flannery Road to look for Mountain Plovers and Burrowing Owls. Then continue on Highway 12 to I-5, then north to Thornton (exit 493), then west to Staten Island Rd. where winter flocks of ducks, geese, swans, cranes, and ibis as well as winter raptors should be in force. Lunch at the Consumnes River Reserve north of Thornton. After lunch we will head north through Sacramento, then west to near Davis to watch for Short-eared Owls at sunset. If you have just one day free, you can head home from here on I-80. Otherwise, proceed north on State Highway 113 to Yuba City for the night. The Bonanza Inn in Yuba City is recommended. It might be a good idea to reserve a room early as it is hunting season. **January 11, Sunday:** Prime targets are the Gray Lodge State Wildlife Management Area and the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge. Expect a rather different mix of species here than near Thornton. If you stayed the night in Yuba City, after an early breakfast we will leave from the Bonanza Inn to bird the base of the Sutter Buttes. Otherwise, plan to meet at the entrance to Gray Lodge, on Almond Orchard-Pennington Rd. south from the Colusa Highway (6.5 miles w of Gridley), at 9:30 AM. If you are coming from home direct, it is approximately 2.5 hours from Santa Rosa via Clear Lake or from Petaluma via Vacaville. Leader TBA. For more info see <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/lands/wa/region2/graylodge/>

January 24, 2015, Saturday: Gulls of the Sonoma County coast. Meet at Bodega Bay at the large dirt lot along Bay Flat Rd. at Westshore Rd, at 8:00 am. We will check Bodega Bay, Bodega Head, Salmon Creek beach, and Goat Rock Beach (and points between) for roosting flocks of gulls (and other birds of interest). The usual suspects include (of all plumages): Heermann's, Mew, Ring-billed, Western, California, Herring, Thayer's, Glaucous-winged, and maybe Bonaparte's, with the slim possibility of rarities such as

Glaucous, Black-legged Kittiwake, Iceland, and/or Slaty-backed (but don't hold your breath), plus hybrids (aarrgh!). There will be lots of non-gulls to look at also. Gene Hunn leads (enhunn323@comcast.net, 707-981-7301). Bring lunch or forage on route. Heavy rains cancel.

February 14, 2015: Delta Pond, and Willowside Rd. A half-day field trip, which always provides entertaining surprises. Tufted Duck? This could be the year. Bring your scopes. Bill Doyle, leader. Meet at the Santa Rosa Creek bridge, on Willowside Rd., Santa Rosa, at **8:00am**. Heavy rain cancels.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

RROS Santa Rosa CBC, December 14, 2014: RROS held its Santa Rosa CBC under cloudy, but mostly dry, skies. While many of us expected increased bird activity after all the rain, that did not happen. Good birds were seen, including a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, by David Hofmann, but the total species count, **136**, was well below our historical average. Still, it was very pleasant birding, and we ended the day with a fine, congenial, and lively compilation dinner.

Happy Holidays, and good birding, to all.

Bill Doyle, Compiler
Santa Rosa

Observations: Nov. 21, 2014-Dec. 20, 2014

Compiled by David A. Hofmann

| Specie/s | Date/s | Location | County # | Observer/s |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|----------|-------------------|
| White-fronted Goose | 12/8/14 | Petaluma Rainsville Rd | SON 15 | EuH |
| Ross's Goose | 11/29/14 | Petaluma Sewage Pd | SON 1 | AIW |
| Eurasian Wigeon | 12/1/14 | Doran Regional Park | SON 1 m | DeF |
| American Bittern | 11/19-25/14 | Foothill Reg. Park | SON 1 | EuH, DaN, |
| Least Bittern | 11/16-29/14 | Foothill Reg. Park | SON 1 | Cr&AnRo, mob |
| Ferruginous Hawk | 11/29/14 | Doran Regional Park | SON 1 | EuH |
| Ferruginous Hawk | 11/29/14 | Petaluma Sewage Pd | SON 1 im | AIW |
| Ferruginous Hawk | 11/30/14 | Petaluma Sewage Pd | SON 1 ad | AIW |
| Ferruginous Hawk | 11/30/14 | E. Railroad Ave | SON 1 | KeW, BeO |
| Merlin | 12/13/14 | Southwest Santa Rosa | SON 1 | DaB |
| Red Phalarope | 12/13/14 | Campbell Cove St.Pk | SON 1 | DeH, WiG |
| Ancient Murrelet | 11/29/14 | Bodega Head St. Pk | SON 6 | EuH |
| Black-chinned Humbrd | 12/20/14 | Occidental yard | SON 1 | MiH |
| Lewis's Woodpecker | 11/20-12/4/14 | I Street/Petalu | SON 4-8 | ScS, GaT,AIW, EuH |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | 12/14/14 | Frei Road yard | SON 1 ad | DAH |
| Violet-green Swallow | 12/14/14 | farm pond S.R. Crk trail | SON 1 | MiP, BiL,BDP,DAH |
| Hermit Warbler | 11/30/14 | Duncan Mills | SON 1 f | LiP |
| Clay-colored Sparrow | 11/27/14 | Birdwalk Reg. Park | SON 1 | DeF, DaN |
| White-throated Sp | 11/27-12/6/14 | Birdwalk Reg. Park | SON 2 | DaN, EuH |
| Indigo Bunting | 11/29/14 | Birdwalk Reg. Park | SON 1 | EuH, BrO |

Observers for this period: Dave Barry, Dea Fried, Will German, Denise Herzberg, David A. Hofmann, Eugene Hunn, Bill Lenarz, Dan Nelson, Brook O'Connor, Becky Olsen, Michael Park, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Linda Petruvias, Craig & Annette Roth, Scott Sorbo, Gabe Tarantino, Alan Wight, Ken Wilson

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

Fishing with Parmeter~ Mexico, 1966

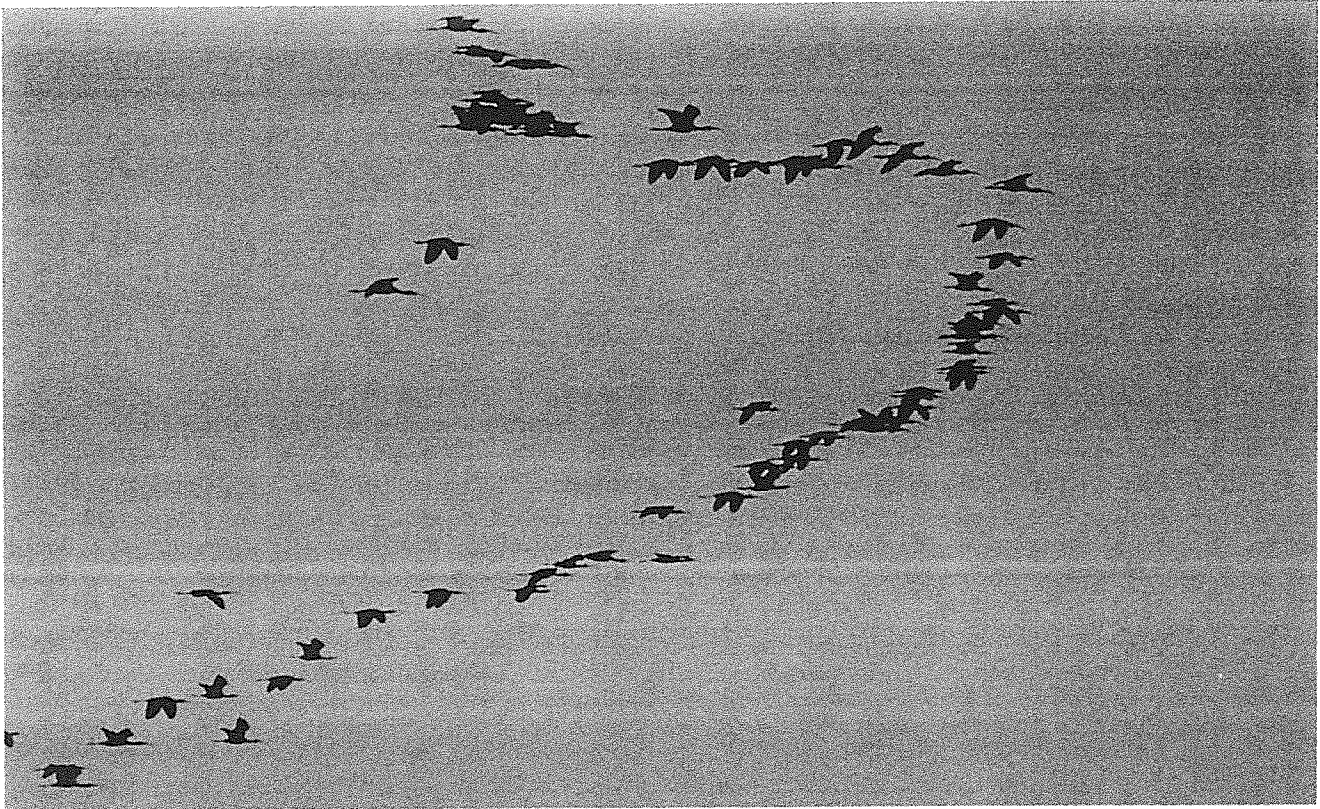
My first birding trip outside the U.S. (excluding the one, all expenses paid, to Korea by the U.S. Army) was to West Mexico, mainly in the state of Nayarit, in March 1966. My companions were Roland Wauer and Dennis Carter, both park naturalists for the National Park Service, and Allegra Collister, a retired teacher and bird bander from Colorado. We met in Nogales AZ, crossed the border into Mexico, and took the train (Ferrocarill) to Tepic, a distance of 1,000 miles. Blake's Birds of Mexico, was the only field guide we had. Did a little birding from the train, adding several birds to my life list, including Least Grebe, Olivaceous Cormorant, Magnificent Frigatebird, Wood Ibis, Black Vulture, Caracara, Jacana, and White-fronted Parrot (a life family). The trip to Tepic took about 24 hours. We spent 3 days in the Tepic area. This was up in pine forest, elevation 4,500 ft. Lots of birds: Rusty-crowned Ground Sparrow, Lilac-crowned Parrot, Squirrel Cuckoo, Tufted Flycatcher, and Brown-backed Solitaire (wonderful singer).

Then we proceeded to San Blas on the west coast. Stopped at a spot on the way down the hill to see Military Macaws. Took several local trips at San Blas: (1) off shore island, seeing Brown and Blue-footed Boobys, (2) a night trip up a large stream where we saw Common Potoo, (3) several walks to birding spots around town, (4) to the Singaito Jungle where Rufous-crowned Motmot was a new family, and (5) another boat trip up a river for Boot-billed Heron, Roseate Spoonbill, Great Black Hawk, Zone-tailed Hawk, Collared Plover, White-fronted Dove, Squirrel Cuckoo, Fork-tailed Emerald, Long-tailed Hermit, Citrolene Trogon, Ivory-billed Woodcreeper (a new family), Social Flycatcher, Magpie Jay, Thick-billed Yellowthroat, Streak-backed Oriole, Red-crowned Ant Tanager. Grayish Saltator, and Stripe-headed Sparrow.

Other special birds included: Lineated Woodpecker, Red-billed Pigeon, Blue-rumped Parrotlet, Ferruginos Owl, Berylline Hummer, Flint-billed Woodpecker, Masked Tityra, Sinaloa Wren, Happy Wren, Black-capped Vireo, Tropical Parula Warbler, and Fan-tailed Warbler.

We stayed at the Buchanero Hotel, and ate out at various places, not contracting any GI illnesses. Had a wonderful time, saw 222 species, 60 of which were lifers. The next year, 1967, I repeated the trip with Dr. John Arnold, Gordon Bolander, and Eddie McClintock.

Mike~



Evening Ibis, Winter, Central Valley, by Ken Wilson



Harris's Sparrow, 1st Winter, Bodega Bay Walk, by Rick LeBaudour

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 Wednesday of each month, September through May, at 7:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Ave., Santa Rosa, 95404, unless a temporary meeting place is announced. Dues are \$20 per family, or 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 - Rita Bevins | 237 Deanna Pl. Windsor, Ca. 95492 | ritanbill@comcast.net | 484-3704 |
| Treasurer - Don Howard | 979 Hogwarts Circle, Petaluma 94954 | binkybunji2@comcast.net | 637-0868 |

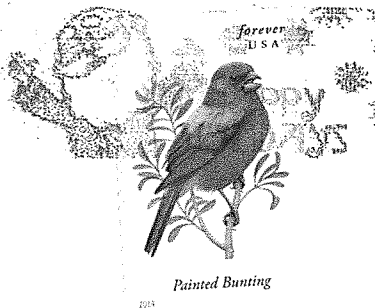
Committee Chairs

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|----------|
| Field Trips - Gene Hunn, | 204 Fair Ave., Petaluma, 94954 | enhunn323@comcast.net | 981-7301 |
| Observations- David Hofmann | 2021 Pioneer Wy #47 Santa Rosa 95403 | nnamfoh@comcast.net | 546-0325 |
| Christmas Count - Bill Doyle | 1966 Belmont Ct., SRosa, 95404 | shortbill@comcast.net | 483-8773 |
| Kite Tales - - Bill Doyle | 1966 Belmont Ct., SRosa, 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.

SAFETY
SAN FRANCISCO CA 940

31 DEC 2014 PM 2 L



Painted Bunting

KITE TALES
979 Hogwarts Circle
Petaluma CA 9954



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