



# Kite Tales

Volume 50 Number 6

February 2015



*"Pure Grace", Bodega Harbor, by Rick Marsi*

**RROS General Meeting,  
February 11, 2015 7p.m.,  
First United Methodist Church  
1551 Montgomery Ave., Santa Rosa, CA**

**Wednesday, February 11, 2015, 7p.m.:** Samantha Arthur, Conservation Project Manager for Audubon, California, will discuss the work being done to further conservation of California's endangered, endemic **Tricolored Blackbird**.

**Save the Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2015, 7p.m.-** Dr. Andrea Goodnight, veterinarian at Knowland Park's California Condor Recovery Program, will tell us about the Condor recovery efforts at Oakland Zoo.

**Directions to new monthly meeting:** From Hwy 101, take the "Downtown" exit. Head east on 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**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 - February 2015, and beyond:**

**Feb 14<sup>th</sup>, Saturday - Delta Pond, and Willowside Trail:** Delta Pond in winter always holds interesting surprises. Bring your scopes, and meet at the south end of the bridge over Santa Rosa Crk, on Willowside Rd., 8:00am. Bill Doyle, leader. Heavy rain cancels.

**Feb 27<sup>th</sup>, Friday - Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup>: Field Trip to Humboldt County with Ruthie Rudesill.** Join us on real adventure to one of the best birding areas in California! Anyone who follows the county birding in California knows about the wonders of Humboldt County. Seems to be a magnet for rare birds and has local specialties as well.

I will be driving up early Friday morning and will meet the group at 10:30 at the Arcata Marsh Project Information Center (Take Hwy 101 to Samoa Blvd exit heading west and turn left on G street - follow the signs on the right) FYI: Arcata Marsh is off I Street. We will bird the area and possibly head north in the afternoon.

Several motels are found at the Guintoli Lane exit from Hwy 101 in northern Arcata. Turn right on Valley West Blvd. There is fast food and a coffee shop, groceries, and gas at the shopping center. Big news is Saturday: local expert Rob Fowler will lead us! He has given us a discount to his fees (\$20) each. I've asked him to take us to a Ruffed Grouse spot! And he will know of any rare birds sticking around and will strive for a well rounded Humboldt experience. We will meet at the coffee hut at the shopping center parking lot at 7:30 AM Saturday. Plenty of time to eat. Bring lunches.

Weather permitting, we will try for owls one night too. Sunday, we will bird our way south in redwoods, river bottoms and mountains. We may even find Bigfoot!!

Ruthie Rudesill - 707-833-6026, 707-481-0768 (cell) - [ruthier@sonic.net](mailto:ruthier@sonic.net).

**March 11, 2015, Wednesday: San Pablo Bay shore sites.** Restoration of key habitat along Sonoma County's San Pablo Bay coastline is underway. We have permission from the Sonoma Land Trust to survey their new wetland behind the dike off Reclamation Rd. Leader(s) TBA. There are large winter concentrations of waterfowl (including perhaps Barrow's Goldeneye), shorebirds, and raptors (maybe a Rough-legged Hawk or Short-eared Owl) to be pursued, plus flocks of sparrows (maybe Clay-colored) and other species of plowed fields (pipits, Horned Larks) and hedgerows (shrikes). We will meet at **8 AM** at the Port of Sonoma Marina parking lot, to check the mouth of the Petaluma River, before

heading east to Reclamation Road, the Sonoma River bridge, and Hudeman Slough/Skaggs Island. Finish by 3 PM. Expect a fair bit of walking. Bring your lunch, dress for the weather. Heavy rain cancels. Leader to be announced.

**Observations: Dec. 21, 2014 – Jan. 20, 2015****Compiled by David A. Hofmann**

Species	Date/s	Location	County #	Observer/s
Snow Goose	1/03/15	Stoney Pt. x Wilfred	SON 1	juv WeD
Ross' Goose	12/31/14-1/02/15	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON 2	RoS, PeC, AIH,
Cackling Goose	1/03/15	Stoney Pt. Rd	SON 2	WeD
Tundra Swan	1/02/15	Bodega Bay	SON 3	BrO flyover
Tundra Swan	1/12/15	Bodega Bay	SON 5	BrO flyover
Tundra Swan	1/17/15	Bodega Rd x Carmody Rd	SON 6	ToB
Mandarin Duck	12/26/14	Sonoma Valley CBC	SON 11	fide EuH, mob
Eurasian Wigeon	12/27/14	Doran Regional Park	SON 1	m DeF, BrO
Redhead	1/08-11/15	Bodega Farm Pond	SON 1	f ScC, DoS
Redhead	1/14/15	Old Quarry Pond	SON 1	f DaN
Harlequin Duck	12/28/14	Bodega harbor	SON 1	f RAR
Barrow's Goldeneye	1/03/15	Port of Sonoma	SON 3	ToB
White-winged Scoter	12/27-31/14	Doran Regional Park	SON 1	f DeF, BrO
White-winged Scoter	12/28/14	Jenner	SON 2	MiH, mob
White-winged Scoter	12/28/14	Bodega Head State Pk	SON 1	BDP
Black Scoter	1/02-03/15	Port of Sonoma	SON 1	f EuH, ToB
Black Scoter	1/15/15	Duncan's Landing	SON 1	m IaM
Hooded Merganser	1/11/15	Hood Mtn Reg. Park	SON 17	GIW&AIW
Red-necked Grebe	12/25/14	Doran Regional Park	SON 4	DeF
Red-necked Grebe	1/04/15	Bodega Bay/ The Tides	SON 1	DeH
Red-necked Grebe	1/07/15	Porto Bodega	SON 1	DAH, BDP
Red-necked Grebe	1/15/15	Duncan's Landing	SON 1	IaM
Least Bittern	12/25/14	Foothill Regional Park	SON 1	DoS, mob
Common Black Hawk	1/04/15	Santa Rosa Crk/Laguna	SON 1	DoS
Ferruginous Hawk	12/28/14	Jenner Headlands	SON 1	MiH, mob
Ferruginous Hawk	12/31/14	Bloomfield	SON 1	BDP, JoP
Ferruginous Hawk	1/03/15	Riverside Equest. Ctr	SON 1	ToB
Merlin	12/28/14	Duncan Mills	SON 1	MiH, mob
Merlin	12/31/14	Bodega Bay	SON 1	DeF, BDP, JoP
Merlin	1/11/15	SR Mem Pk Cemetery	SON 1	DeD
Merlin	1/15/15	Mt. St.Helens/N. Peak	SON 1	DoS, Br&OrO
Prairie Falcon	12/28/14	Jenner Headlands	SON 1	MiH, mob
Pacific Golden Plover	1/17/15	Tubb's Island Trail	SON 1	DoS
Red Knot	1/07/15	Porto Bodega	SON 1	EuH,DAH, BDP, WiG
Red Knot	1/17/15	Tubb's Island Trail	SON 1	DoS
Red Phalarope	12/25/14	Bird Walk Regional Pk	SON 1	DeF
Ancient Murrelet	12/28/14	CBC Pelagic	SON 4	EuH
Ancient Murrelet	1/07/15	Bodega Head State Pk	SON 7	BDP
Cassin's Auklet	1/16/15	Duncan's Landing	SON 1	DaN
Burrowing Owl	12/26/14	Sonoma Valley CBC	SON 4	fide EuH, mob
Burrowing Owl	1/02-03/15	Riverside Equest. Ctr	SON 1	EuH, ToB
Allen's Hummingbird	1/13/15	W. Sebastopol yard	SON 1	ScC
Lewis' Woodpecker	12/26/14	Sonoma Valley CBC	SON 4	fide EuH, mob
Lewis' Woodpecker	1/01-09/15	I St/Petaluma	SON 1	EuH, Br&OrO
Lewis' Woodpecker	1/07/15	D St/Petaluma	SON 1	DaB
Lewis' Woodpecker	1/08/15	Foothill Regional Park	SON 4	DoS
Lewis' Woodpecker	1/13/15	Hwy 12 x Dunbar Rd	SON 1	RAR
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1/04/15	Annadel State Park	SON 1	KeW, MeW
Clark's Nutcracker	1/15/15	Mt. St.Helens/N. Peak	SON 1	DoS, Br&OrO
Tree Swallow	12/31/14	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON 4	RoS

Violet-green Swallow	12/31/14	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	2	RoS
Townsend's Solitaire	1/04/15	Annadel State Park	SON	1	KeW, MeW
Townsend's Solitaire	1/15/15	Mt. St.Helena/N. Peak	SON	4	DoS, Br&OrO
Nashville Warbler	12/29/14-1/19/15	Diekmann's Store	SON	1-2	RAR, DeF, mob
<b>Lucy's Warbler</b>	1/15-20/15	Diekmann's Store	SON	1 m	DeF, DaN, LiH,
Hermit Warbler	12/26/14	Bodega Dunes	SON	1	JaS
Palm Warbler	12/26/14	Sonoma Valley CBC	SON	1	fide EuH, mob
Palm Warbler	1/04/15	Santa Rosa Crk/Laguna	SON	1	DoS
Vesper Sparrow	12/26/14	Sonoma Valley CBC	SON	1	fide EuH, mob
Swamp Sparrow	1/12/15	Laguna/Sebastopol	SON	1	ScC
Harris's Sparrow	1/03-16/15	Salmon Creek yard	SON	1	PeC, JaS, mo
Western Tanager	12/25/14	Laguna de Santa Rosa	SON	2 f	ScC
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1/11/15	SRJC neighborhood	SON	1 m	DeD
Bullock's Oriole	12/31/14-1/15/15	Diekmann's Store	SON	1 m	JoP, DeF
Bullock's Oriole	1/15-16/15	Diekmann's Store	SON	1 f	DeF, DaN, mob
<i>Northern Red Bishop</i> <i>escapee</i>	1/09/15	Laguna de Santa Rosa	SON	1	SaM photo

**Observers for this period:** Dave Barry, Tony Briggs, Scott Carey, Peter Colasanti, Peter Connors, Wendy Dandridge, Debbie Drechsler, Dea Fried, Will German, Mike Heffernon, Derek Heins, Al Hesla, David A. Hofmann, Lisa Hugg, Eugene Hunn, Sarah M., Ian Morrison, Dan Nelson, Benjamin D. Parmeter, John Parmeter, Brook O'Connor, Brook & Orion O'Connor, Ruth Ann Rudesill, Doug Shaw, Jackie Sones, Ron Storey, Glo & Al Welman, Kerry Wilcox, Melissa Witte

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

### ***Pishing with Parmeter~ "BIG DAYS" AT THE LAGUNA DE SANTA ROSA***

In the early 1960s I was a resident physician at Sonoma County Hospital (now Community Hospital) on Chanate Road. I was already an ardent birder at that time, having started in the 1940s when my mother gave me a copy of Roger Tory Peterson's A Field Guide to Western Birds. I had previously met a Santa Rosa birder, Gordon L. Bolander, who had a reputation as an accomplished birder. I got in touch with him in 1960, and we remained fast birding companions until his death in 1977. Gordon lived at Timber Hill, which is located on the Laguna de Santa Rosa, immediately west and north of the bridge at Guerneville Road. His home was on the west side of the lagoon, with a porch on the east side of the house that overlooked the lagoon and the usually flooded field (in winter) just east of the lagoon. One of our favorite birding activities was to see how many species of birds we could identify in a 24 hour period in Sonoma County, or a portion thereof. This is called a "Big Day."

We began by sleeping on Gordon's porch, recording night birds: Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, and Barn Owl were regulars. Virginia Rail and Sora called at night. Yellow-breasted Chats were still nesting in the area and called all night long. Immediately after arising, we headed down to the lagoon, and its riparian growth of alders and willows. California Thrashers were then nesting there, and were one of the first birds to sing a welcome to the morning. Song Sparrow called early in the day and, occasionally, at night. The list of birds in the riparian is lengthy, and includes Nuttall's Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Oak Titmouse (then called plain Titmouse), Fox Sparrow, and occasional Chipping Sparrows. Yellow-rumped Warbler (then called Audubon's Warbler), Myrtle Warbler (now lumped with Yellow-rumped), and Ruby-crowned Kinglets were common in winter. Chestnut-backed Chickadees led small flocks, which included Bushtit, Bewick's Wren, and Hutton's Vireo.

Other species usually noted in this habitat were California Quail, Scrub Jay, Marsh Wren, Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbirds, Lincoln's, White-crowned, and Golden-crowned Sparrows, Belted Kingfisher, American Robin, Black Phoebe, Anna's Hummingbird, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee (then Rufous-sided Towhee), and California Towhee (then Brown Towhee). The usual 5 species of swallows were present in summer; only Tree and Violet-green in winter. Pied-billed Grebe was found in deeper water. Red-breasted Sapsucker, Wood Duck (easily noted by their squealing call), and Orange-crowned Warbler were regular in summer, and a few remained in winter. Townsend's Warbler was present in winter, Wilson's Warbler in summer. We always looked for Hermit Warbler and Black-throated Gray Warbler in winter, sometimes finding both.

In winter, after birding the immediate Laguna area, we returned to Gordon's porch to set up our spotting scopes to check the flooded field to the east. Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, and Cinnamon Teal were observed, and, occasionally, a Blue-winged Teal. Bufflehead was common, along with Common Goldeneye and Ruddy Duck. Crows and Ravens were always present. Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, and Snowy Egret were regular. Ring-necked Duck was often in the deeper water. Red-shouldered Hawk, White-tailed kite, Turkey Vulture (as the air warmed), Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were often observed.

After finishing here, we walked up onto Timber Hill, with its great stand of mature Douglas Fir (far fewer trees today), Oak and Laurel. Here we would find Acorn Woodpecker, Steller's Jay (fall and over winter at that time), Hermit Thrush, Golden-crowned Kinglet, American Creeper, Northern Flicker, Pacific Flycatcher, Western Wood Peewee (in summer), White-breasted Nuthatch, and Cedar Waxwing. A Northern Mockingbird was usually near the house.

For two winters, a Saw-whet Owl wintered on the limb of a Laurel tree, giving its presence away by its white droppings on the ground.

Usually our day of birding in this area produced a list approaching or slightly over 100 species. If we passed the 100 mark, Gordy would always say, "Now we're in the gravy."

**Mike~**

**Donation:** RR0S has received a generous donation from the North Valley Orchid Society in memory of Joel Hornstein. Thank you!

### **The Dalliance of Eagles~**

Skirting the river road (my forenoon walk, my rest),  
 Skyward in air a sudden muffled sound, the dalliance of the eagles,  
 The rushing amorous contact high in space together,  
 The clinching interlocking claws, a living, fierce, gyrating wheel,  
 Four beating wings, two beaks, a swirling mass tight grappling,  
 In tumbling turning clustering loops, straight downward falling,  
 Till o'er the river poised, the twain yet one, a moment's lull,  
 A motionless still balance in the air, then parting, talons loosing,  
 Upward again on slow-firm pinions slanting, their separate diverse flight,  
 She hers, he his, pursuing.

Walt Whitman

**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 Wednesday of each month September through May, at 7:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church, 1515 Montgomery Ave, Santa Rosa California. Dues are \$20 per individual or family, and \$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
Vice Pres - Terry Haag	1340 Big Plum Dr., Sebastopol 95472	<a href="mailto:teresitahaag@comcast.net">teresitahaag@comcast.net</a>	823-8527
Secretary – Rita Bevins	237 Deanna Pl. Windsor, Ca. 95492	<a href="mailto:ritanbill@comcast.net">ritanbill@comcast.net</a>	484-3704
Treasurer - Don Howard	979 Hogwarts Circle, Petaluma 94954	<a href="mailto:binkybunji2@comcast.net">binkybunji2@comcast.net</a>	637-0868

**Committee Chairs**

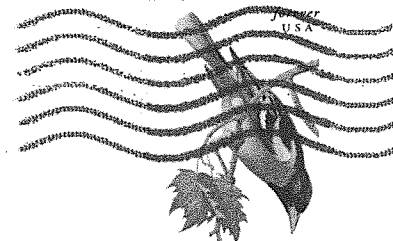
Field Trips – Gene Hunn,	204 Fair Ave., Petaluma, 94954	<a href="mailto:enhunn323@comcast.net">enhunn323@comcast.net</a>	981-7301
Observations- David Hofmann	2021 Pioneer Wy #47 Santa Rosa 95403	<a href="mailto:nnamfoh@comcast.net">nnamfoh@comcast.net</a>	546-0325
Christmas Count – Bill Doyle	1966 Belmont 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**  
**979 Hogwarts Circle**  
**Petaluma CA 9954**

SAN FRANCISCO CA 941

29 JAN 2015 PM 2 L



Baltimore Oriole



Benjamin D. Parmeter, MD  
2500 Emerson St  
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