



Kite Tales

Volume 50 Number 8

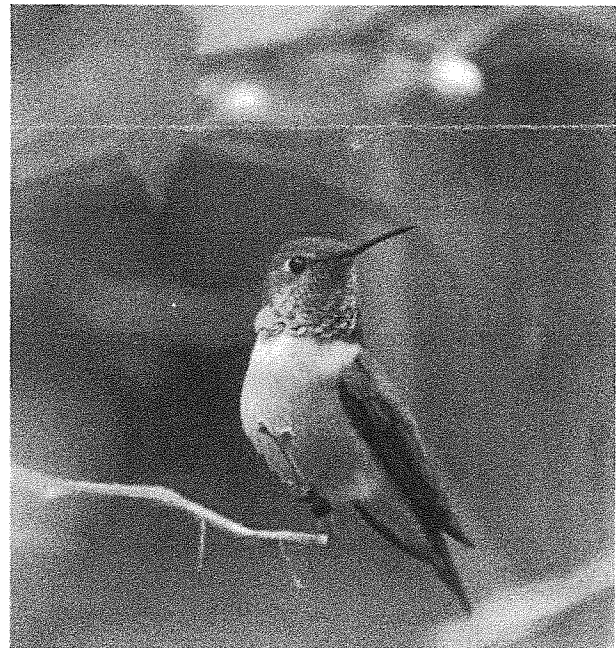
April 2015

**RROS General Meeting,
April 8, 2015 7p.m.,
First United Methodist Church
1551 Montgomery Ave., Santa
Rosa, CA**

Wednesday, April 8, 2015-
Nick Geist, Professor of Biology at Sonoma State University, will discuss **bird evolution** and the new information that is emerging in this field. Did birds really evolve from dinosaurs? Come find out the latest!

Save the Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2015- Annual Spring Potluck, Sugar Loaf Ridge State Park. Take Adobe Canyon Rd. off Hwy 12, south of Oakmont, into the park. Meet at the picnic area across from the main parking lot at **5:30 pm**.

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.



Spring Rufous, by Charles Doyle

Dinner Before the monthly meeting: This month, join us at **5:30pm** at **Coco's Restaurant (NEW LOCATION)**, at 1501 Farmer's Lane, Santa Rosa. From 101, take Hwy 12 east to Farmer's Lane. Turn south on Farmer's Lane, and the restaurant is on your right.

FIELD TRIPS – April 2015, and beyond:

Humboldt County Field Trip, February 27th – March 1st, 2015: See Page 5, for report and photos.

April 11, 2015, Saturday: Bodega Bay. Meet at 8 a.m., at the horse trailer lot on the north end of Bodega Bay. Leader TBA. Mid-April is a great time to visit Bodega Bay. The wintering shorebirds are dressed up in their breeding plumage, and are staging for their long trips to their breeding grounds. We will be searching for all the other birds as well. Bring: bins, scopes, field guides, sunscreen, water, hats, layers of clothes, lunch and snacks. Heavy rain cancels.

April 21, 2015, Tuesday: Del Puerto Canyon Stanislaus County, Mines Rd and Del Valle in Livermore, Alameda County: Leader: Ruthie Rudesill, 707-833-6026, evenings, ruthier@sonic.net. There is potential for some very interesting birds, including Roadrunner, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Phainopepla, Rufous-crowned Sparrow. This will be an all day excursion. Bring binoculars, scopes, layers of clothing, lunch and beverages. Car-pooling is encouraged. Meet at the Park-n-Ride at Hwy 116 x 121, south of the town of Sonoma, at 6 AM. (It is a two-hour drive from here to the starting point.) Head east on 121, to American Canyon Road, east to I-80 in Fairfield. Exit I-80 south on I-680, south through Walnut Creek, to I-580 east, through Livermore and over the Altamont Pass. Take I-5 south, to the **Diablo Grande Parkway** exit, in Patterson (exit 434). Head west to **Del Puerto Canyon Rd**. Meet here at 8:00 AM. We will work our way back west and north over the back side of Mt. Hamilton, then down Mines Road to Livermore (then home). There is an entrance fee to Del Valle Reservoir Park. It was \$6 last year (+ Bridge Toll for the Benicia Bridge, if you travel that way). Heavy rain cancels.

April 25, 2015, Saturday: Mitchell Canyon. Leader is Rick LeBaudour, 707-974-0004 or rick@sonoma-customtile.com. Mitchell Canyon is a great spring birding spot on the north flanks of Mt Diablo. Hoped for birds include Hammond's Flycatcher, Calliope Hummingbird, Hermit Warbler and Nashville Warbler. The wildflowers and butterflies should be beautiful. Meet for carpooling at 7:30 am, at the park and ride at Hwy's 116 and 121, or meet at 8:30 AM at the Mitchell Canyon Parking Area which is located on Mitchell Canyon Road, off Clayton Road, northeast of Walnut Creek. Bring binoculars, sunscreen, water, food for lunch, hats. This is a walking field trip, about 3 miles. Let Rick know if you plan to meet at Mitchell Canyon. Heavy rain cancels.

May 9, 2015, Saturday: King Ridge Road. Leader is Bill Doyle. Meet at the bakery on the south side of Hwy 116 in Duncan's Mills at 7:30 a.m. This is a great spring trip which should have some nice wildflowers. We'll be on the lookout for all land birds. Possible highlights are American Dipper, Mountain Quail and Sooty Grouse. Bring lunch, snacks, optics, sunscreen, layers, hats. We can carpool from Duncan's Mills. Heavy rain cancels.

May 23, 2015, Saturday: Pine Flat Road. Leader is Don Kirker. This is our last official field trip of the season. Pine Flat Road has wonderful rare wildflowers, great butterflies and terrific birds. All the spring nesting species should be in. Meet 7:30 a.m. at Pine Flat Road, on the side of the road, near the bridge. From Hwy 101, take Dry Creek exit to Healdsburg Av to Alexander Valley Road, past the Jimtown store, to Pine Flat Road. Bring optics, field guides, water, lunch, sunscreen, hats. Heavy rain cancels.

UPDATE: PELAGIC TRIPS, FALL, 2015: All Aboard! This year RROS is running two pelagic trips to the deep water hotspots of Sonoma and Marin counties, one on either end of high season. Sunday, September 6 is prime time for migrant tubenoses and Sunday, October 25 could produce some seldom seen winter specialties. To reserve space, members can send their **check, for \$140.00 per person, to Peter, made payable to Don Howard.** Don won't deposit the check until after the trip. If you have any questions call or email me, though details concerning logistics and expectations will naturally be sent to all who join. **Peter Colasanti**, peter.colasanti@yahoo.com 524 East D Street, Petaluma, CA 94952-3212, (707) 763-2450

Observations: Feb. 21, 2015-Mar. 20, 2015 **Compiled by David A. Hofmann**

Species	Date/s	Location	County #	Observer/s
Ross' Goose	2/26/15	High School Road	SON 1	LiH, mob
Ross' Goose	3/09/15	Bodega Farm Pond	SON 1	De&DaH
Ross' Goose	3/12/15	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON 2	RoS
Eurasian Wigeon	3/04-14/15	Doran Regional Park	SON 1 m	DAH, BDP, MaB, ScC
Long-tailed Duck	3/20-21/15	Bodega Bay/The Tides	SON 1 f	BrO, DoS, RoS photo
Hooded Merganser	2/27/15	Wilfred Ave X Stoney Pt. Rd	SON 4 pr	AIW
Red-breasted Merganser	3/04/15	Doran Regional Park	SON 30+	DAH, BDP, MaB
Turkey Vulture (leucistic)	2/24-3/06/15	N. Sonoma Mtn. R.P.	SON 1	BeO, HeK, AnH, WeS
Rough-legged Hawk	2/28/15	Hudeman Slough	SON 1 im	DoS
Golden Eagle	3/04/15	Tolay Lake Reg. Park	SON 1	RoS photos
Merlin	3/14-18/15	Sebastopol yard	SON 1 f	MaJ
Snowy Plover	3/04/15	Doran Regional Park	SON 15	BDP, MaB, DAH
Surfbird	3/16/15	Bodega Head State Pk	SON 10	DAH, MaB
Surfbird	3/16/15	Bodega Bay/Pinnacle GIch	SON 1	JaS photo
Peregrine Falcon	3/04/15	Bodega Bay	SON 1	DAH, BDP, MaB
Marbled Murrelet	3/14-20/15	Bodega Head State Pk	SON 2	ScC, DoS
Rhinoceros Auklet	3/14-20/15	Bodega Head State Pk	SON 15+	ScC, DoS
Burrowing Owl	2/27/15	Bodega Head State Pk	SON 1	JaS photo
Rufous Hummingbird	2/25/15	Diekmann's Store	SON 1 m	EuH
Rufous Hummingbird	3/06/15	Santa Rosa yard	SON 1 m	ChK
Rufous Hummingbird	3/11/15	Kenwood yard	SON 1	RAR
Rufous Hummingbird	3/19/15	Santa Rosa yard	SON 1	WeD
Lewis' Woodpecker	3/08/15	Helen Putnam R.P.	SON 1	CyR
Lewis' Woodpecker	3/16/15	D Street X San Antonio Rd	SON 1	DaW
Red-naped Sapsucker	3/05/15	Keysight Tech property	SON 1 m	AIW photo
Eastern Kingbird	9/09/14	Salmon Creek Village	SON 1	SkH photos
Warbling Vireo	3/10/15	Austin Creek Rec. Area	SON 1	GoB early arrival
No. Rough-wngd Swallow	2/28/15	Spring Lake Reg. Park	SON 3	DaN
Rock Wren	2/28/15	Warm Springs Dam	SON 2	DaN
Orange-crowned Warbler	2/24/15	Glen Ellen	SON 17	EuH early arrival
Nashville Warbler	3/03/15	Sebastopol yard	SON 1	KaB photo
Nashville Warbler	3/14/15	Diekmann's Store	SON 1	DeF, ScC, mob
Lucy's Warbler	1/15-3/14/15	Diekmann's Store	SON 1	De&DaH, mob
Wilson's Warbler	2/24/15	Glen Ellen	SON 1	EuH early arrival

Observers for this period: Margaret Barson, Gordon Beebe, Kathy Biggs, Scott Carey, Wendy Danridge, Dea Freid, Denise & David Hamilton, Skip Hand, David A. Hofmann, Ann Howald, Eugene Hunn, Marilyn Jones, Helen Kochenderfer, Chris Kuhn, Dan Nelson, Brook O'Connor, Becky Olsen, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Cynthia Rathkey, Ruth Ann Rudesill, Doug Shaw, Jackie Sones, Wendy Smit, Ron Storey, Alan Wight, David Wimpfheimer

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

Pishing with Parmeter~ BAXTER STATE PARK, MAINE, 1976

In June of 1976 I took a two week trip to Cape Cod, Maine, and Quebec. The group consisted of Dr. Ron Branson (a medical school classmate), Gordon Bolander, my son John, and myself. We began by landing at the Boston Airport only to discover that our luggage was in Pittsburgh. Suitcases arrived about 4-5 hours later, we rented a car, and were on our way.

There were several highlights throughout the trip , but for eastern warblers, Baxter State Park in Maine was very rewarding. We stayed 3 days. Entered the park via the south entrance on the first day, and drove through to the north entrance, stopping to bird at various places. We drove with the windows down so we could listen for warbler and vireo songs. At the end of that day we had 21 warblers. Saw and heard them all. The males were in full breeding plumage, most of them new to us. Our list that day included: Black and White, Tennessee, Nashville, Parula, Yellow, Magnolia, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Myrtle (now Yellow-rumped), Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, Palm, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Common Yellow-throat, Wilson's, Canada, and American Redstart. It was like being in a penny candy store!! The Blackburnian was the flashiest of the group.

We drove to the north entrance that day, then returned into the park to find a camping site. Other birds seen in the park included: Common Loon, Broad-winged Hawk, Ruffed Grouse, Common Woodcock, Whip-poor-will, Great-crested Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Wood Peewee, Boreal Chickadee, Eastern Winter Wren, Wood Thrush, Veery, Blue-headed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Evening Grosbeak, Field Sparrow, and Swamp Sparrow.

Quite a list of birds! We were all very excited as most were life birds. **Mike~**



**Western Screech Owl, Annadel SP
by Tom Reynolds**



**Pacific Wren, Sugarloaf SP, by Rob
O'Donnell**

Report of Humboldt County Field Trip – Feb 27-Mar 1, 2015, by Ruth Rudesill

Twenty-six enthusiastic birders joined the weekend adventure to Humboldt County. Early arrivals observed the lingering **Common (Eurasian) Teal** in Ferndale Bottoms. Friday morning started with rain, and a failed hunt for the Brambling. It was chaotic, with people still arriving, and many cars. But a **Northern Saw-whet Owl**, in a small tree at the Arcata Marsh Center, along with **Black-capped Chickadees**, brought us together. We had great views of male and female **Blue-winged**, Cinnamon, and Green-winged Teals, together at the Arcata Marsh, along with American Bittern. At the North Jetty, local birder Ken Burton led the group on a sea watch. **Rock Sandpiper**, Marbled Murrelets, dark morph **Pomarine Jaeger**, and **Black-legged Kittiwakes** were highlights. Unfortunately, one of the group suffered a severe fall in the rocks. Our thoughts go out to Julie for a speedy recovery. Special thanks to those members who helped her.

In the evenings, small groups of us went to the V St. Loop, Arcata, for Barn and Short-eared Owls flying around; the 2nd night, a **Long-eared Owl** was observed, for a long while.

Saturday was our fabulous day with Rob Fowler. He was awesome, and found all our target birds. First, he found a large family group of **Gray Jays**, to the wonderment of everyone. In the Ferndale Bottoms, we saw waterfowl, and a pair of **Lapland Longspurs**, in a large flock of Am Pipits. Lunch at the Humboldt Bay NWR included more waterfowl, a Bald Eagle flyover, and a wintering **Tropical Kingbird**. At the College of the Redwoods, we delighted in a male **Red-naped Sapsucker**, who flew like magic for Rob. A drive up Maple Creek Rd, out of Blue Lake, produced a **Ruffed Grouse**, though only half the group saw it, because three cyclists happened to come from the other direction, and spooked the bird!

Sunday morning some folks left, but the remaining group went to beautiful Patrick's Point SP, where we found **Red Crossbills**, and White-winged scoters. We tried for the grouse again but were out of luck. Almost everyone saw Lifers, and even I got two county birds! And there were still more birds to be seen, but we ran out of time!

We ended up with **139 Birds Observed!**



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, 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

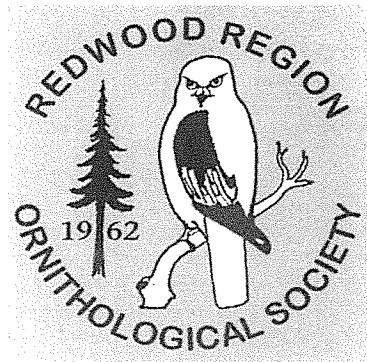
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Committee Chairs

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 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.

KITE TALES
979 Hogwarts Circle
Petaluma CA 9954



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