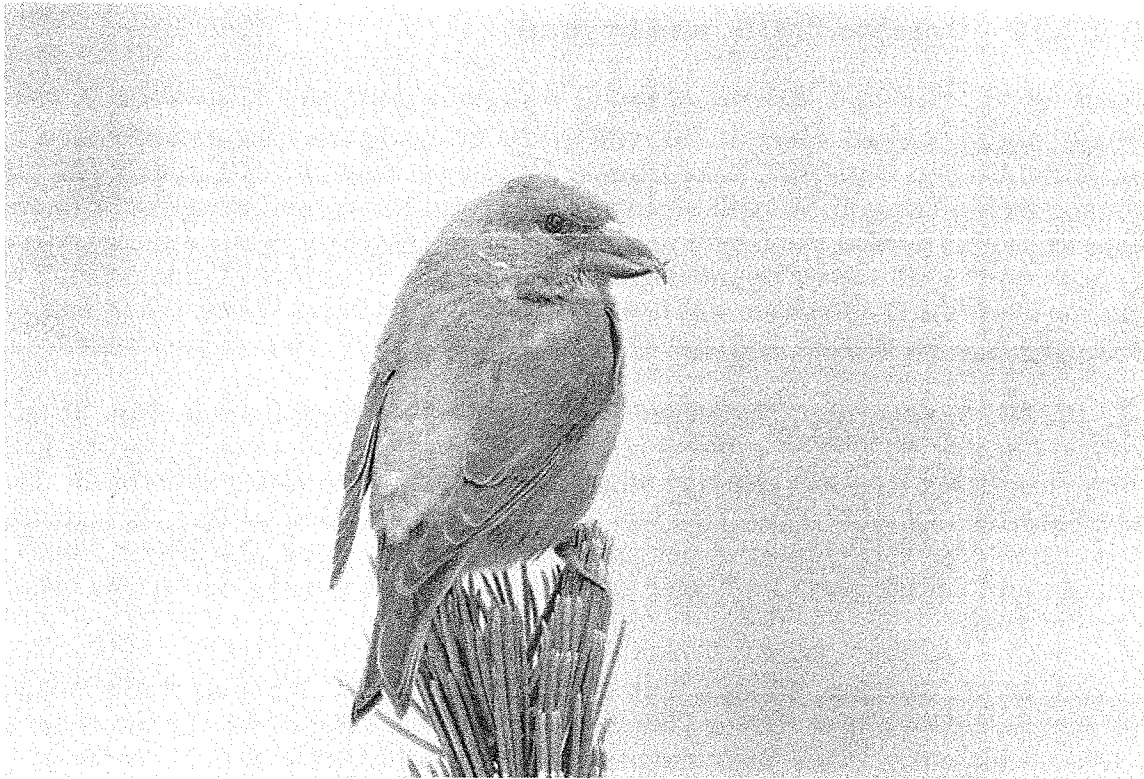




# Kite Tales

Volume 51 Number 2

October 2015



*Wary Crossbill, Tioga Pass, by Rick LeBaudour*

**RROS General Meeting,  
October 14, 2015 7:00 pm,  
First United Methodist Church  
1551 Montgomery Ave., Santa Rosa, CA**

**October, 2015, Monthly Meeting: Shorebird Identification, by Lisa Hug.**

Identifying shorebirds is a challenge for many birders, but there are strategies to use that can make it simpler. Lisa will present a PowerPoint workshop on shorebird identification. We will not only look at species identification, but also how to age and sex some shorebirds. This presentation will be followed by a field trip to Bodega Bay, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., on Saturday, October 17th, where we can put our new skills into practice.

**Save the date: November 11, 2015- Joe Mueller**, Professor of Biology at College of Marin, will give a presentation about courtship, mating and breeding strategies of birds.

**NEW RESTAURANT FOR DINNER BEFORE MEETING:** Join us at 5:30 p.m., at **Mary's Pizza Shack**, 535 Summerfield Rd., Santa Rosa, across from Howarth Park. From Hwy. 101 take Hwy. 12 east. Turn left on Farmer's Ln., right on Montgomery Dr. and right on Summerfield Rd. Mary's will be on your right. They do not accept reservations for groups smaller than 15, so when you arrive just ask to be seated with the RROS birders' group in the back room.

**FIELD TRIPS – October, 2015, and beyond:**

**October 6, 2015, Tuesday, Southern Marin County Highlights.** Leader is Bob Battagin ([bigfootbob@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bigfootbob@sbcglobal.net)). Meet at 7:30 AM at the bridge at the west end of Rodeo Lagoon, in the Golden Gate NRA (take Bunker Road west from the 101 at exit 442 just south of the Waldo Tunnel). We will bird the lagoon and its wooded margins for shorebirds and migrant landbirds and the beach for seabirds. Next we drive to the summit of Hawk Hill to check on the fall raptor migration, hoping for something rare (a picnic lunch while enjoying the view). After lunch we will head north to Las Gallinas Wetland and salt marsh hoping to spot a Least Bittern or Ridgway's Rail and lots more. Heavy rains cancel.

**October 17, 2015, Saturday, Shorebird Clinic, with Lisa Hug, Bodega Bay.** At our Wednesday, October 14, RROS meeting in Santa Rosa (check the website or your *Kite Tales* for details) Lisa Hug will give tips and techniques for identifying shorebirds. The following Saturday, October 17th, Lisa will lead a field trip at Bodega Bay, for participants to use the knowledge they gained at her presentation. Those of us who attend Lisa's presentation and field trip will no longer have to use the term "peep" unless the bird is very, very far away.

**October 25, 2015, Sunday, Pelagic Trip out of Bodega Bay: Sonoma/Marin Pelagic #2** Whether you missed the first ride or attended and just want more, there's still room on the late October pelagic trip. This one's timed for a good shot at Short-tailed Albatross; knowledgeable seabirders give it about 50:50 odds at Cordell Banks in November. Short-tailed Shearwater, Black-legged Kittiwakes, winter alcids and more are likely to make an appearance. We'll be aboard the *New Sea Angler*, with Cap'n Rick Powers out of Bodega Bay, visiting pelagic waters in two counties, with focus on Cordell Banks. The price is \$140 per trip to members. \$160 for non-members includes a membership to RROS.

To reserve your spot(s), send a check to me, payable to our Treasurer Don Howard, with a return address on the envelope. It won't be deposited until after the trip is completed.

Peter Colasanti  
524 East D Street  
Petaluma, CA 94952-3212  
707 763-2450

**Field Trip Reports, September, 2015:**

**RROS pelagic trip out of Bodega Harbor, Sunday, September 6, 2015.** Thanks to Peter Colasanti for organizing, Lisa Hug for chum, and Steve Howell for expert commentary. Stiff northwest winds for several days had pushed a mass of cold water close to shore with enhanced upwelling. However, the rough seas had calmed as the winds died, so our trip was not as rough as it might have been. A juvenile Tufted Puffin that circled the boat not far offshore and an early, close Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel promised more to come. A fly-by Brown Booby was seen by a few in the bow. Numbers were moderate, but diversity excellent as the day progressed. The early passage of Sooty Shearwaters soon tapered off, but good numbers of Pink-footed Shearwaters and Northern Fulmars kept us awake. Common Murre families were our constant companions. After the first Black-footed Albatross was spotted on the far horizon, albatross numbers gradually increased. At one point, there were 15 Black-footed Albatrosses behind our boat, joined by two LAYSAN ALBATROSSES, which followed us south to the Cordell Banks, and then nearly back to port. Jaegers were few but representative. At one point, we were distracted from admiring a Sabine's Gull by a Long-tailed Jaeger making a pass. A few Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers were seen well. Our best storm-petrel observations were at a slick that attracted Fork-tailed, Ashy, and at least two Wilson's Storm-Petrels, all close enough for careful comparisons. Also noted were a few gleaming Buller's Shearwaters, a smattering of Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets, and Red-necked and Red Phalaropes. Two of our best birds were seen in the Marin County segment of the trip, a FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER, roosting with a flock of Pink-footeds and two SOUTH POLAR SKUAs. Two distant terns on our way in were variously identified as Arctic and/or *Sterna* tern species. No whales this time, but a very confiding pod of bow-riding Short-beaked Common Dolphins, which are positively identified by their "cute faces" (they are typically found farther offshore than their Long-beaked cousins). Also of note, a fur seal suspected of being the southern Guadalupe Fur Seal species.

**RROS field trip to Bodega Bay, Saturday, September 19, 2015.** We (all 17) met at the big dirt lot at 8:30 on a beautiful morning, but heat was expected by afternoon, which brought hordes of beach goers, whose numbers eventually shut down Doran Regional Park, our prime high-tide shorebird spot. As consolation, we were treated to close views of 12 WHITE-FACED IBIS in the entrance pond, and a nice mix of shorebirds: Marbled Godwits, Willets, Dunlin, Western Sandpipers, Short-billed Dowitchers, and Semipalmated Plovers. A Peregrine later chased them away. We focused first on land birds at the Rail Ponds, then checked Campbell Cove and Owl Canyon, but the woods were quiet. We did manage to pull out several Yellow and Townsend's Warblers, an Orange-crowned, a Wilson's, and a Common Yellowthroat, plus Hutton's and Warbling Vireos, and enjoyed close views of a Bewick's Wren and Wrentits in Owl Canyon. Having heard of a feeding frenzy of shearwaters with some offshore Humpback Whales we set up our scopes on Bodega Head. We just barely made out a considerable flock of some 100+ Pink-footed and 50+ Sooty Shearwaters, and maybe a jaeger or two, but they were too far away to be sure of anything more exotic. A single Black Oystercatcher and a Surfbird on the rocks with the Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorants got our shorebird list off to a decent start. At lunch a Common Tern was spotted with foraging Elegants, and an adult and a juvenile Common Tern were subsequently seen up close for photos at the Porto Bodega high-tide roost, where we added two Ruddy Turnstones, 20 Black Turnstones, and three Whimbrels. There were more humans than birds today, but excellent birder company.

Observations: Aug. 21-Sep. 20, 2015

Compiled by David A. Hofmann

Species	Date/s	Location	County	#	Observer/s
Blue-winged Teal	9/11/15	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	2f	EuH
Hooded Merganser	9/12/15	Bodega Farm Pond	SON	1f	LiH, mob
Red-necked Grebe	9/15/15	Salmon Creek Beach	SON	1	DaE
<b>Brown Booby</b>	9/06/15	Bodega Canyon	SON	1	MaB, DoS, AnL
<b>Laysan Albatross</b>	9/06/15	Bodega Canyon	SON	2	RROS pelagic trip
Sooty Shearwater	8/23-9/19/15	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	10000+	JaS,mob, cont.
<b>Wilson's Storm-Petrel</b>	9/06/15	Bodega Canyon	SON	1	RROS pelagic trip
White-faced Ibis	9/19/15	Doran Regional Park	SON	12	WiA, RROS f. trip
Lesser Yellowlegs	9/11-12/15	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	1	EuH, LeB, AnL
<b>Solitary Sandpiper</b>	9/04/15	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	1	BoD
Long-billed Curlew	9/11/15	Schollenberger Park	SON	13	EuH
Red Knot	9/11-18/15	Doran Regional Park	SON	2	EuH, RoS (photo)
Semipalmated Sandpiper	8/25/15	Doran entrance pond	SON	1	EuH
Semipalmated Sandpiper	8/25-27/15	Laguna Trail/Kelly Pd	SON	1	EuH, DoS, WiA
Semipalmated Sandpiper	8/25/15	Carmody Road pond	SON	1	LiH, RAR
Baird's Sandpiper	9/05/15	Valley Ford Road pond	SON	1	EuH, mob
Baird's Sandpiper	9/13/15	Campbell Cove St. Bch	SON	1	DaN
Pectoral Sandpiper	9/12-14/15	Doran Regional Park	SON	1	RoS,DoS,DaN (photo)
<b>Ruff</b>	9/04-08/15	Valley Ford Road pond	SON	1	ToB, mob (photos)
Red-necked Phalarope	8/21/15	Bodega Farm Pond	SON	2	DeF
Red-necked Phalarope	9/05-13/15	Bodega Farm Pond	SON	30+	DAH,DeF,ScC,
Red-necked Phalarope	9/19/15	Bodega Farm Pond	SON	1	DAH Parasitic
Jaeger	9/13/15	Salmon Creek Beach	SON	2	MoH
Common Tern	8/25/15	Gaffney Point	SON	2	EuH
Common Tern	9/08/15	Doran Regional Park	SON	1	DAH (photo)
Common Tern	9/11/15	Doran Regional Park	SON	2	ScC
Common Tern	9/19-20/15	Porto Bodega	SON	2	RROS field trip
Tufted Puffin	9/06/15	Bodega Canyon	SON	1	RROS pelagic trip
<b>Black Swift</b>	9/16/15	Tolay Lake Reg. Park	SON	3	EuH, mob
<b>Blck-chinned Humbird</b>	8/30-9/01/15	W. Petaluma yard	SON	1f	AIW
Willow Flycatcher	8/25/15	Fountaingrove Prkway	SON	1	AIW
Willow Flycatcher	8/27/15	Owl Canyon	SON	1	RoS, mob (photo)
Willow Flycatcher	8/28/15	Laguna Trail/Kelly Pd	SON	2	DaN
<b>Tropical Kingbird</b>	9/20/15	Campbell Cove St. Bch	SON	1	MarioB, RoS (photo)
Loggerhead Shrike	9/06/15	Carmody Road	SON	1	ScC
<b>Bank Swallow</b>	9/17/15	Laguna de Santa Rosa	SON	1	ScC
<b>Red-throated Pipit</b>	9/14/15	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	1	RoM
Nashville Warbler	8/27/15	Owl Canyon	SON	1	RiS
Chestnut-sided Warbler	9/09/15	Doran Regional Park	SON	1	DeF
<b>Prairie Warbler</b>	9/12/15	Owl Canyon	SON	1	LiH, mob (photos)
Black&White Warbler	9/17/15	Owl Canyon	SON	1f	DoS
American Redstart	8/26-27/15	Owl Canyon	SON	1m	DeF, EuH, ScC, DoK
MacGillivray's Warbler	8/28-9/01/15	Fountaingrove Prkway	SON	1	AIW
MacGillivray's Warbler	9/12/15	Owl Canyon	SON	1hy	DAH (photo)
MacGillivray's Warbler	9/16/15	Campbell Cove St. Bch	SON	1	DaN, DeF (photo)
White-throated Sparrow	8/22/15	Petaluma yard	SON	1m	ShO
Golden-crowned Sparrow	9/04/15	Santa Rosa yard	SON	1	DeD (early)

**Observers for this period:** Will Anderson, Mario Balitbit, Len Blumin, Tony Briggs, Mark Butler, Scott Carey, Debbie Drechsler, Bob Dyer, Daniel Edelstein, Dea Freid, Moss Henry, David A. Hofmann, Lisa Hug, Eugene Hunn, Don Kimball, Andy LaCasse, Roger Marlowe, Dan Nelson, Sheri Oster, Ruth Ann Rudesill, Doug Shaw, Jackie Sones, Ron Storey, Richard Stradford, Alan Wight

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

***Pishing with Parmeter***~ Mike is on vacation this month, and will be back with us in the next issue. In the meantime...

This past summer, I did a ten-day solo hike on the Pacific Crest Trail, through some of the highest country in the Sierras. I don't carry binoculars while hiking, partly because of the extra weight they represent, and also because stopping often to observe birds closely interrupts the flow and pace of the hike. That doesn't mean, though, that I'm not birding. I've been having a fine time using my unaided eyes, and all the various clues, summed up as "giss" (general impression of shape and size, plus color, pattern, behavior, habitat, etc.), to come to pretty good identification of the birds that are all around, at various elevations.

Many of the common birds, like juncos and White-crowned Sparrows, are easy, but some birds, like juvenile McGillivray's Warblers, which are all over in summer, in the mountains, are harder. One bird I've always kept an eye out for, but had been unable to ID positively, has been Gray-crowned Rosy Finch, a very high elevation bird, which is often found feeding around the edges of old, melting snow fields. I didn't have much hope for Gray-crowns this year...after four years of drought, there was no snow, even on the highest passes. So, I was very happy, when I stopped for a breather at about 11,000', in an area of little tundra lakes, below Mather Pass, to have a lovely GCRF land on the edge of the trail, not ten feet from away! When I got over my surprised delight, I noticed that there were adult and juvenile Rosy Finches, flitting and feeding all over the area in front of me. I counted over thirty birds, which, I think, is the most Rosy Finches I've ever seen in one flock. I was smiling as I set off on the last switchbacks to the top of the pass, glad to have GCRF on my California list at last. **Ed.**~

**NEW MEMBERS: RROS welcomes the following new members, who have joined over the summer, and early fall-**

Mary Aquilino - Occidental  
 Marie Balitbit - Santa Rosa  
 Kerry Brady - Sebastopol  
 Geri Brown - Sebastopol  
 Mark Butler - San Francisco  
 Heather Cameron - Novato  
 Scott Carey - Sebastopol  
 Everett Clark - Tiburon  
 Linda Conley - Sebastopol  
 Brad & Nadine Davis - Carmichael  
 Brad Dolman - Occidental

Kris Dunlap - Carmichael  
 Tom Edell - Cayucos  
 Thomas Ford Hutchinson - Irvine  
 Andrew Larson - Petaluma  
 Ron Mallory - Larkspur  
 Curtis Marantz - Riverside  
 Alexander Merritt - San Francisco  
 David Nelson - Carmichael  
 Mary Anne Rotella - Bodega Bay  
 Margaret Strubel - Albany

**PLEASE NOTE:** See the annual **RROS Financial Report**, on page 7, at the end of the newsletter. Thanks to our Treasurer, Don Howard.

**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 - Ruth Rudesill	POB 371 Kenwood, CA 95452	<a href="mailto:ruthier@sonic.net">ruthier@sonic.net</a>	833-602
Vice Pres - Terry Haag	1340 Big Plum Dr., Sebastopol 95472	<a href="mailto:teresitahaag@comcast.net">teresitahaag@comcast.net</a>	823-85
Secretary - Rita Bevans	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**

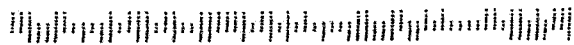
Field Trips - Gene Hunn	204 Fair Ave., Petaluma, 94954	<a href="mailto:enhunn323@comcast.net">enhunn323@comcast.net</a>	981-7301
Observations- David Hofmann	2021 Pioneer Wy #47 Santa Rosa 95403	<a href="mailto:nnamfoh@comcast.net">nnamfoh@comcast.net</a>	546-0325
Christmas Count - Bill Doyle	1966 Belmont 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
YAMS Coordinator - Lisa Hug	Sebastopol	<a href="mailto:lisahug@sonic.net">lisahug@sonic.net</a>	535-9570

**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 94954**



Benjamin D. Parmeter, MD  
2500 Emerson St  
Napa, CA 94558



**REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY****ANNUAL REPORT****July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015**

<b>BEGINNING BANK BALANCE (July 1, 2014)</b>		<b>\$8,167</b>
<b>INFLOWS</b>		
Pelagic Trip	\$4,931	
Membership Dues	1,385	
Donations Received	1,130	
Book Sales	543	
RROS Ball Cap Sales	60	
Checklist Sales	<u>20</u>	
<b>TOTAL INFLOWS</b>		<b>\$8,069</b>
<b>OUTFLOWS</b>		
Pelagic Trip	\$3,500	
Education	925	
Printing Newsletter	491	
Meeting Room Rental	480	
Donation – Sonoma Land Trust	300	
Donation – Audubon California	300	
Y.A.M.S. (Young Birders) Expense	317	
Royalties	114	
Postage	103	
Web Fees	100	
Sales Tax	64	
Office and Shipping Expenses	<u>36</u>	
<b>TOTAL OUTFLOWS</b>		<b>\$6,730</b>
<b>NET CASH FLOW FOR THE FISCAL YEAR</b>		<b>\$1,340</b>
<b>ENDING BANK BALANCE (June 30, 2015)</b>		<b>\$9,507</b>