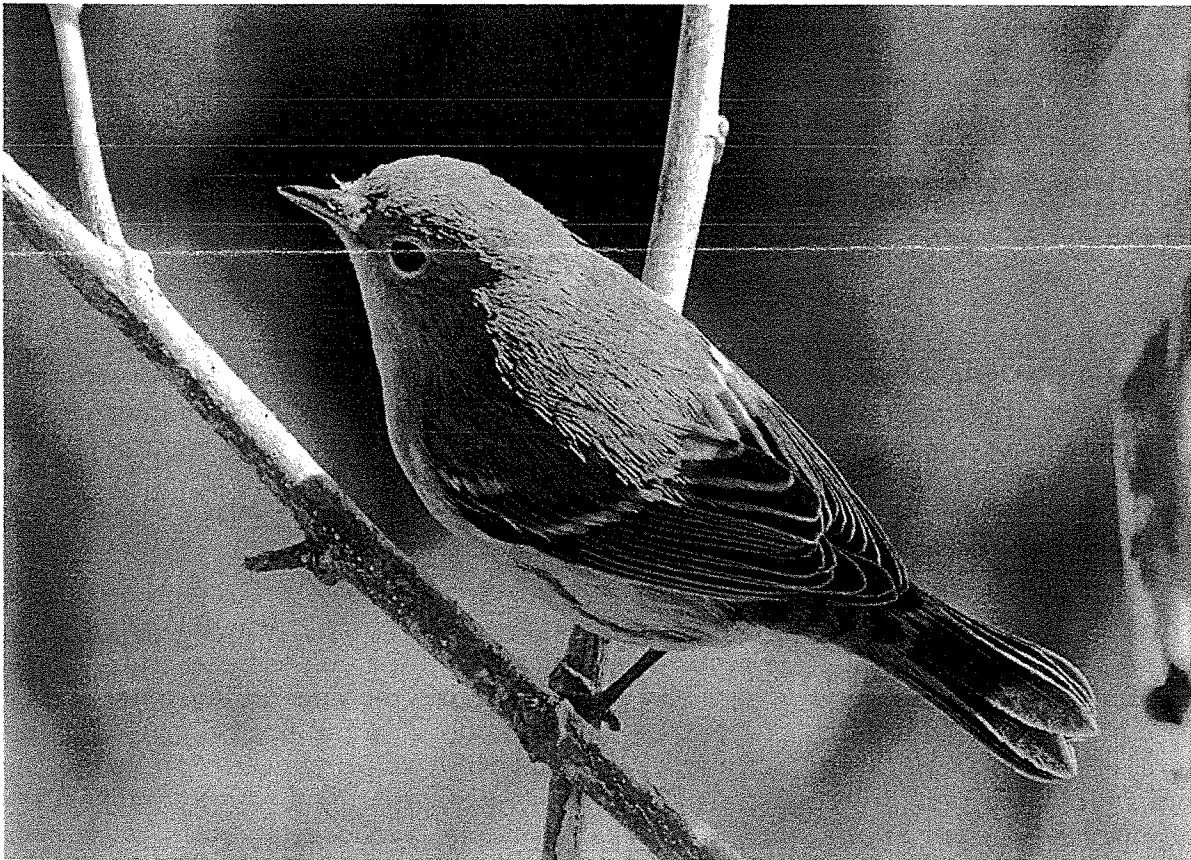




# Kite Tales

Volume 51 Number 3

November 2015



*Magnolia Warbler, Diekman's Store, Bodega Bay, by Ken Wilson*

**RROS General Meeting,  
November 11, 2015 7:00 pm,  
First United Methodist Church  
1551 Montgomery Ave., Santa Rosa, CA**

**November, 2015, Monthly Meeting:** Joe Mueller, Professor of Biology at College of Marin, describes his presentation this way: Some of the most fascinating aspects of avian biology are reproductive strategies and courtship behavior. We'll begin our talk with a foundational understanding of sexual selection and how it applies to reproductive success. We'll then review the different types of mating systems including polygyny, monogamy and polyandry. Once our basic principles are examined we can then investigate the core of breeding behavior including territorial, cooperative and colonial breeding. As a special treat we'll explore some of the recent research and findings in colonial breeding biology in the San Francisco Bay Area.

**Joe Mueller** has been teaching biology at the College of Marin for 25 years. Of the 15 different courses he has taught at COM his subjects of particular interest include mammalogy, marine biology, ornithology and environmental science. Taking a holistic approach to science, Joe emphasizes the need to understand the reasons we have become so disconnected from the very planetary ecosystems we depend on. An animal lover by nature Joe tends an animal friend farm where he loves spending time with an assortment of critters ranging from llamas to lizards. Joe is the recipient of the 2008 Terwilliger Environmental Award and he has developed and directs the Natural History Program at College of Marin.

**Save the date: December 9, 2015: Members' Media Night**

Our December meeting will be members' media night. It is an opportunity for our members to show their images of birds, birders, RROS field trips and birding. In addition to our many fine photographers, RROS has many talented artists who create sculptures and paintings of birds. We encourage all of our creative members to share their creations at this meeting.

**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 31, 2015, Saturday: San Pablo Bay shore sites.** Gene Hunn will lead (981-7301, [enhunn323@comcast.net](mailto:enhunn323@comcast.net)). Restoration of key habitat along Sonoma County's San Pablo Bay coastline is underway. The new wetland behind the dike off Reclamation Rd. is to have been breached in late October. This could produce an interesting concentration of raptors, shorebirds, and other waterfowl. 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 south off SR 37 just east of the Petaluma River bridge. We will check the mouth of the Petaluma River before heading east to Reclamation Road, the Tubbs Island trail near the mouth of Tolay Creek, and the wetlands at the Skaggs Island spur off SR 37. Finish by 1 PM. Expect a fair bit of walking. Bring your lunch, dress for the weather. Heavy rain cancels.

**November 14, 2015, Saturday: Napa-Sonoma Marshes.** Leader is Murray Berner ([vireocity@hotmail.com](mailto: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 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 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. Our day will end at Huichica Creek WA looking for 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 7:30 AM, or at 8:00 AM, at Stanly Ln, Napa, which is the last right off Hwy 12, before the large junction of Hwy 12 and Hwy 121. 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.

**November 23, 2015, Monday, Tolay Lake.** Andy LaCasse, leader, (763-5167). Meet to carpool at the boat launch lot just south of Papas Taverna, on Lakeville Hwy, at 8 AM. Proceed up Cannon Lane to the gate. Parking requires annual pass or \$7 fee. We will hike about 4-5 miles on mostly level trails to sample the varied habitats of this Regional Park in the making. Lots of raptors and sparrows in and over the grasslands; some nice ponds with possible American Bittern; oak woodland residents; Barn Owls in the barn; possible wintering Burrowing Owl. Bring lunch and water. Heavy rains cancel.

**December 20, 2015, Sunday: RROS, Santa Rosa Christmas Bird Count.** Though most of us are looking forward to some good rain this winter, from the El Nino, let's hope for a dry day on Sunday, the 20<sup>th</sup>. Area Leaders should be confirming their groups, and anyone wishing to volunteer to join a team may contact Bill Doyle, Compiler, at [shortbill@comcast.net](mailto:shortbill@comcast.net) Coco's Restaurant, where we have had our Compilation Dinner in recent years, has closed. The site of this year's dinner will be **Adel's Restaurant**, on the corner of College and Mendocino, starting 5:00pm. Looking forward to a great count this year!

**Field Trip Report, October 17, 2015:** A large, enthusiastic group met Lisa Hug at Porto Bodega, at the civilized hour of 10:30 am, to catch the ideal tide for the field portion of her club shorebird class, which had begun with a presentation at the RROS Monthly Meeting, the Wednesday evening before. After short stops at Bodega Head, and the Doran Entrance Pond, we gathered at the Stallcup Memorial Platform, and were treated to a feast of close-up shorebirds, representing every species discussed by Lisa in her talk. ID's, questions, and answers were flying around. Sharp eyes even pulled out a solitary Red Knot, from among a crowd of godwits. After lunch, we headed out to the end of Doran, to scope the ocean and jetty, where many roosting species were seen, including a large group of Surfbirds, always a favorite. The class ended with a walk on the beach, west of the day-use area, where we found a nice flock of Snowy Plover. Many thanks to Lisa for her skilled and enthusiastic leadership!

**Observations: Sept. 21-Oct. 20, 2015**

Compiled by David A. Hofmann

Species	Date/s	Location	County #	Observer/s
Grtr White-fronted Goose	9/27-10/14/15	Brookhaven/Jenner area	SON 7-8	BDP,AIW,RiL,LiH
Grtr White-fronted Goose	10/05/15	southwest Santa Rosa	SON 9	DaB flyover
Snow Goose	10/11-17/15	Salmon Crk/Bean Ave	SON 1	Br&OrO, MoH, LiH
Snow Goose	10/12/15	Reclamation Road	SON 4	Br&OrO
Blck-blld Whistling Duck	9/11-10/18/15	Roberts Lake	SON 1	ScS, WiA refund
American Bittern	10/10/15	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON 1	YAMs
White-faced Ibis	9/27/15	Salmon Crk Pond/Hwy 1	SON 1	BDP, AIW, RiL, LiH
White-faced Ibis	10/10/15	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON 12	DaE, mob
Broad-winged Hawk	9/26/15	Bay Hill Road	SON 1	DaN photos
Broad-winged Hawk	9/30/15	Jenner Headland	SON 1	DaB, EuH, mob
Sandhill Crane	9/24-25/15	Willowside/Delta Pond	SON 1	DoK, mob
Pacific Golden Plover	10/10/15	Kelly Pd/Laguna de S.R.	SON 1	YAMs, RoS
White-winged Dove	10/09/15	Campbell Cove St. Pk	SON 1	Br&OrO
Burrowing Owl	9/22/15	Doran Beach Reg. Park	SON 1	NoO, DaN photos
Burrowing Owl	9/26/15	Tolay Lake Reg. Park	SON 1	DaB, mob
Burrowing Owl	10/11/15	Jenner Headland	SON 1	DaB. Mob
Burrowing Owl	10/15/15	Bodega Dunes	SON 1	JaS photo
Black Swift	9/30/15	Jenner Headland	SON 20	DaB, EuH, mob
Tropical Kingbird	9/29/15	Campbell Cove St. Pk	SON 1	DaN, TeE, DiA
Tropical Kingbird	10/06/15	Doran Beach Reg. Park	SON 1	DeF
Tropical Kingbird	10/11/15	Hwy 1/Chanslor Ranch	SON 1	MoH photo
Tropical Kingbird	10/15-17/15	Hwy 1/Bird Walk Park	SON 2	ChD,BiS,mob
Tropical Kingbird	10/15/15	Campbell Cove St. Pk	SON 1	WiA, mob
<b>Bell's Vireo</b>	10/02-05/15	Campbell Cove St. Pk	SON 1	EuH, WiA, mob
<b>Note: First county record.</b> Seen by many, photos taken. Subspecies <i>Vireo bellii bellii</i>				
Tennessee Warbler	10/03/15	Campbell Cove St. Pk	SON 1	DoK
Chestnut-sided Warbler	10/07-17/15	Owl Canyon	SON 1	RoS, DaN, ScC,
Magnolia Warbler	10/05-06/15	Owl Canyon	SON 1	im DaN, LiV,
				DeF
Magnolia Warbler	10/17-20/15	Diekmann's Store	SON 1	StS, DeH, mob
Blck-thrted Blue Warbler	10/07/15	Campbell Cove St. Pk	SON 1	m DeF
Blackburnian Warbler	9/22-23/15	Bodega Dunes CG	SON 1	DaN, mob
Prairie Warbler	9/24/15	Owl Canyon	SON 1	DeF
Palm Warbler	10/05/15	Owl Canyon	SON 1	DaN, LiV, DeF
Clay-colored Sparrow	10/02/15	Campbell Cove St. Pk	SON 1	EuH, mob
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	9/26/15	Owl Canyon	SON 1	m DaN, DAH
Yellow-headed Blackbird	10/08-10/15	Hldsbrg/Gmas Pmpkn Pat	SON 1	m RhR,LiH,
Orchard Oriole	10/07/15	Campbell Cove St. Pk	SON 1	f DaN photos
Orchard Oriole	10/07/15	Owl Canyon	SON 1	f DaN photos
Orchard Oriole	10/07/15	Bodega Bay yard	SON 1	Br&OrO

**Observers for this period:** Will Anderson, Dick Ashford, Dave Barry, Scott Carey, Chris Dunford, Daniel Edelstein, Ted Eliot, Dea Freid, Moss Henry, Denise Herzberg, David A. Hofmann, Lisa Hug, Eugene Hunn, Don Kirker, Rick LeBadour, Dan Nelson, Brook & Orion O'Connor, Norm Ortman, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Rhio Reigh, Scott Sorby, Stephie Sorby, Bill Stanley, Ron Storey, Link VanCleaf, Alan Wight, Young Ancient Murrelets

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

***Pishing with Parmeter~ RROS: 1979-1980***

The year began with our annual potluck at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park. New officers for the year were: Pres. Bob McLean, Vice Pres. Betty Burrige, Sec. Deyea Harper, Treas. Ruth Hawksley, Field Trips Mike Parmeter, and Kite Tales editor Kathy Muegle. Monthly field trips for the year were announced. It was noted that six birds were added to the county list since the 1979 publication of Birds of Sonoma County: Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Broad-winged Hawk, Manx Shearwater, Cassin's Finch, and Costa's Hummingbird. Swifts coming to a chimney in Sonoma, and netted by Laurie Binford, were identified as Vaux's Swifts.

The Sept. field trip was to Bodega Bay, and the Oct. trip to Point Reyes. Sept. observations by members included thousands of Sooty Shearwaters offshore, a Red Knot at the mouth of the Gualala River, a breeding plumage Rhinoceros Auklet near Arch Rock 8/4, and 2 Tufted Puffins at Arch Rock 7/31. Bob McLean had a Vesper Sparrow at his feeder 9/17. The night birding after our potluck recorded Poorwill. Jon Winter presented the Oct. program on identifying fall warblers. Mike Parmeter was given an honorary life membership in RROS for his work on The Birds of Sonoma County. John Parmeter had compiled the life list of RROS: 309 species were recorded (Kite Tales, Vol. 14, No. 2). Oct. observations: Red-necked Grebe at Doran Park, Eared Grebe (2 adults with 2 young) at Petaluma Sewer Ponds, Pectoral Sandpiper at Laguna Lake, and 6 Baird Sandpipers. The Oct. field trip to Point Reyes was attended by Laurie Binford, John Arnold, Rich Stallcup, Doug Ellis, Herb McGrew, Deyea Harper, Betty Burrige, Hal & Olive Corey, Helen Heneks, Mike Nelligan, Bob McLean, Terry Babineaux, Jim Matsinger, Brad Hanson, David Lowe, Terry Colburn, and John and Mike Parmeter. Some highlight birds: Pectoral Sandpiper, Elegant Tern, Least Flycatcher, Black-and-white Warbler, Palm Warbler, American Redstart, and Lapland Longspur.

The Costa's Hummingbird continued at a feeder on Dry Creek Road. It was a big fall for vagrant warblers. In addition to our field trip list, those noted are Tennessee Warbler, Northern Parula, Cape May Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Ovenbird, and Mourning Warbler. Most of these records are from Point Reyes.

Our Nov. field trip took us to Willow Creek Road and Blind Beach. Red Phalarope, Mountain Quail, and Golden Eagle were the best sightings. A White-winged Dove was noted at Salmon Creek 11/4 & 5. There was a minor invasion of Evening Grosbeaks this particular winter. The Santa Rosa Christmas count was held 12/16, and the Western Sonoma count on 12/30. A Magnificent Frigatebird was recorded at Sea Ranch 12/31.

Sandy Boyce presented the Feb. program on Peregrine Falcons. Mike Parmeter gave a program on Korean birds in March. Gerry Muegle led the monthly field trip to Hood Mountain. A 3 day trip to Honey Lake was enjoyed later that month.

In May we gathered for another potluck at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park. Doug Ellis led the May field trip up Pine Flat Road.

**RROS** thanks the following members for their generous donations:

**Andy LaCasse**  
**Donald McCarthy**  
**Norman Ortman**  
**Donald 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>	833-6026
Vice Pres - Terry Haag	1340 Big Plum Dr., Sebastopol 95472	<a href="mailto:teresitahaag@comcast.net">teresitahaag@comcast.net</a>	823-8527
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:binkybenji2@comcast.net">binkybenji2@comcast.net</a>	637-0868

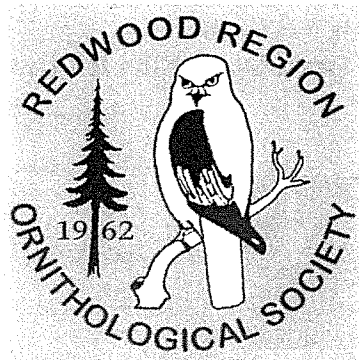
**Committee Chairs**

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>	535-9370

**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**  
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