



Kite Tales

Volume 51 Number 7

March 2016



Great Gray Owl, Prairie Creek Redwoods SP, Orion O'Connor

**RROS General Meeting,
First United Methodist Church
1551 Montgomery Ave., Santa Rosa, CA
March 9, 2016, 7:00 pm**

Monthly Meeting, March 9, 2016: Diane and Bryant Hichwa, *Birds and Music of Ireland*. Just in time for Saint Patrick's Day, Diane and Bryant will show photographs, videos and recordings of their tour of Ireland. Your toes will tap to the lively Irish music while you take in scenes of the birds, wildlife and countryside of Ireland. The program includes a virtual pub crawl.

Save the date: April 13, 2016: Gordon Beebe will share images of his trip to Ecuador.

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 -

Friday-Sunday, March 4 - 6, 2016 - Carrizo Plain: Leader is Peter Colasanti (peter.colasanti@yahoo.com; 763-2450). The Carrizo Plain is an Important Bird Area covering 281 square miles along the San Andreas Fault, between the Central Valley and the coast in, southeastern San Luis Obispo County. With a giant seasonal alkali lake, low rolling grasslands and arid scrub, it's a really big "microcosm" of the Central Valley as it was before conversion to agriculture. With over 10% of California's Sandhill Cranes, big country raptors, Mountain Plovers, Short and Long-eared Owls, Le Conte's Thrashers, Pronghorns and Tule Elk, there's a lot to see. It's one of the most carefully managed areas in California. Join the club for the weekend of March 5 and 6. We'll be spending Saturday the 5th in Carrizo Plain itself after rocketing down I-5 on Friday the 4th. Sunday I plan to return nearer the coast via either the Santa Maria River or Atascadero, with perhaps another layover night somewhere en route. Participants are welcome to bird their way home with me or hustle back on I-5. I've put a reserve on 5 contiguous rooms at the Caprice Motel at 222 Kern Street in Taft for the nights of March 4 & 5. To reserve one, call (661) 765-2161. They can also be reached by fax at (661) 765-7911 or online at www.capricemotel.com.

Saturday, March 26, 2016: Lynch Canyon for raptors (Solano County Land Trust), with possible extension to Rush Ranch. Leader TBA. Meet to carpool at 8 AM at the Park n Ride at Hwy 116 x 121, south of Sonoma, or meet at the Lynch Canyon Reserve trail head parking lot at 8:45 AM. From Petaluma or Santa Rosa take SR 116 and/or SR 12/121 east to SR 12/29, then south to American Canyon Rd. Go left on American Canyon Road to McGary Rd. (I-80 frontage Rd.), then north on McGary 1.6 miles to Lynch Rd. Left on Lynch, under I-80, through the gate to the parking lot. Prepare for a moderate hike. Bring lunch and water. After lunch we will continue east through Fairfield on SR 12 to Grizzly Island Rd., then south to Rush Ranch and accessible lookouts along Grizzly Island Rd. to look for waterfowl and whatever else we might find. Heavy rains cancel.

Saturday, April 9, 2016: Eastern Lake and southern Colusa Counties- Great wildflower and wildlife viewing, plus interesting country, as we explore this inland side of the Coast Range. We will stop at the Cache Creek Wildlife Area first, for elk, waterfowl and spring migrants, then on to Bear Valley Rd., following Bear Creek north. This is a gravel road, but well maintained. There are several wildflower preserves in the Bear Valley area, and open country for hawks and sparrows. Meet at the Safeway parking lot at the corner of Calistoga Rd and Hwy 12, in eastern Santa Rosa at 6:45am. There is a Starbucks in Safeway, and also gas and fast food in Clear Lake. Bring lunch, water, jackets, hats, etc. There are bathroom stops in the early part of trip. We'll work out other stops along the way. Call **Ruth**, at 707-833-6026, or ruthier@sonic.net.

FIELD TRIP REPORT: Central Valley, Saturday 13, 2016: RROS field trip to Yolo County and vicinity, Saturday, February 13, 2016, led by **Chris Dunford**.

Chris generously stepped in for Terry Coburn, who is seriously ill. We thank Chris, and send Terry our heart-felt wishes for his recovery. Our RROS crew of 14 met on the east edge of Davis, then proceeded north on Mace Rd., to CR104, where a winsome family of Burrowing Owls had settled in right at the edge of the road. They posed for close-up photos. Off to a fine start, Chris next pointed out a field full of Short-eared Owls. However, at that hour of the morning, they were all apparently sleeping it off. Gene and Nancy returned at 5 PM, to find six owls actively patrolling the field at the east end of CR30. Next stop was the Davis sewage ponds for ducks and gulls: no great variety, but we added both scaup species, a male Ring-necked Duck, and both Black-necked Stilts and an avocet for our trip list. Next stop was a field where Mountain Plover had been seen just two days before, but we were unable to refind them. However, our next stake out for Ferruginous Hawk made up for it. We first spotted a confusing dark bird that proved to be a graceful dark-phase Ferruginous. A nearby field was patrolled by at least four Ferruginous Hawks, plus kites, harriers, red-tails, kestrels, and three coyotes. A small group of Yellow-billed Magpies were spotted in a tree beside our route. Our lunch stop at Lake Solano, on Putah Creek, just west of Winters, offered restrooms, shade, and a nice flock of Phainopeplas, plus Wood Ducks, Hooded Mergansers, and goldeneyes, including a male Common x Barrow's Goldeneye. A Green Heron hunted on the far bank and an Osprey cruised overhead. After lunch, we decided to make a run north to Maxwell to look for the Vermilion Flycatcher, at the local cemetery. Sure enough, perched on a grave stone in full sun, we found a stunning male. A Great Horned Owl hid in a cypress amongst the graves, a Peregrine cruised over, and a tree was full of Lark Sparrows. Our final stop was a brief visit to the Colusa National Wildlife Refuge east of Williams, to pad our list with Greater White-fronted, Snow, and Cackling Geese. It was a beautiful, crystal clear, sunny day. Our day list topped 90 species.

Observations: Jan. 21, 2016-Feb. 18, 2016

Compiled by David A. Hofmann

Species	Date/s	Location	Cty	#	Observer/s
Snow Goose	1/24/16	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	1	LuS, MaS
Snow Goose	1/25/16	Petaluma	SON	100+	DaB
Snow Goose	2/03/16	Carmody Road	SON	1	DaN
Snow Goose	2/11-14/16	Skylane Blvd	SON	1	TiL photos
Tundra Swa	1/21-2/10/16	Roblar/Fallon Rd	SON	8	JaS, EvC, DoK
Eurasian Wigeon	1/31-2/13/16	Doran Regional Pk	SON	1m	ROD,mob
Eurasian Wigeon	1/26/16	Delta Pond	SON	1m	DaN
Hooded Merganser	2/09/16	Bartholomew Park	SON	24	KuH

White-faced Ibis	1/21-2/15/16	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	9	LiH, cont.
Sandhill Crane	1/25-2/15/16	Delta Pond fields	SON	1	DaN, cont
Common Black Hawk	2/12/16	Santa Rosa Crk Trail	SON	1	PeC
Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk	1/21/16	Roblar Road	SON	1	DaB
Ferruginous Hawk	2/09/16	Valley Ford Rd	SON	1juv	LeB
Ferruginous Hawk	2/13-14/16	Bennett Valley Rd	SON	1	MoS, DaB
Merlin	2/16/16	Occidental yard	SON	1	MiH, KuH
Prairie Falcon	1/27/16	Tolay Regional Park	SON	1	PeC, mob
Prairie Falcon	1/31/16	R.L.Stevenson SP	SON	1	WiA, Br&OrO
Leach's Storm-Petrel	1/23/16	Bodega harbor	SON	2	WiA,ROD,mob
Greater Roadrunner	1/31/16	R.L.Stevenson SP	SON	1	WiA
Burrowing Owl	1/27/16	Tolay Regional Pk	SON	1	PeC, mob
Burrowing Owl	1/30/16	Roberts Rd	SON	1	ChS
Lewis' Woodpecker	1/27/16	Tolay Regional Pk	SON	1	PeC,
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2/08/16	Sonoma yard	SON	1	MaO
Red-npdXRed-brstd Sapskr	1/25-2/07/1	Kenwood yard	SON	1	RAR,RiC,ToB,mob
Townsend's Solitaire	1/31/16	R.L.Stevenson SP	SON	3	WiA,Br&OrO
Sage Thrasher	2/03-04/16	Schollenberger Pk	SON	1	AuA,
Brewer's Sparrow	2/10/16	Estero Ranch	SON	1	BrO, KaM
Vesper Sparrow	1/27-2/14/16	Tolay Regional Pk	SON	2	PeC, mob
Red Crossbill	2/14/16	N. Annapolis Road	SON	20	DiH
Red Crossbill	2/16/16	Gualala Regional Pk	SON	4	PeC
Evening Grosbeak	2/07-15/16	Delta PondxS.R. Cr	SON	15	GaT, mob
Evening Grosbeak	2/17/16	Odd Fellows Pk Rd	SON	25	ChL

Observer/s for this period: Will Anderson, Audevard Aurelien, Dave Barry, Len Blumin, Rich Cimino, Everett Clark, Peter Colasanti, Kurt Heffernon, Mike Heffernon, Diane Hichwa, Lisa Hug, Don Kirker, Chelsea Lee, Tiaan Lordan, Kathleen Mugele, Dan Nelson, Brook & Orion Oconnor, Rob O'Donnell, Madelyn Ore, Ruth Ann Rudesill, Monica Schwalbenberg, Chris Selvig, Jackie Sones, Lucas Stephenson, Mark Stephenson, Gabriel Tarantino, Alan Wight

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

Note: In the Observation for the Dec. 21, 2015-Jan. 20, 2016 Kite Tales the compiler meant to enter Cassin's Vireo not Cassin's Sparrow seen by Will Anderson on 1/08/16 at Armstrong Woods Park.

PISHING WITH PARMETER- RROS, 1974 - '75

The year began with a potluck dinner at the home of Dave and Linda Hanes in Sebastopol. Officers were: President – Lynn Stafford, VP – Wayne Tillay, Secretary – John Parmeter, and Treas. – Carmen Patterson. Linda Hanes was Kite Tales editor. The first field trip, on 9/21, was led by Lynn Stafford to Point Reyes. Best birds: Red-necked Grebe, Cinnamon Teal, White-winged Scoter (much more common then), Prairie Falcon, Northern (sic) Phalarope, Common Tern, Vaux Swift, Willow Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Black-and-White Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, American Redstart, Tricolored Blackbird, and Purple Finch. The team of Gordon Bolander, John Parmeter, and Mike Parmeter reported on their attempt to set a new August Big Day record the previous month. The old record was 138; they were jubilant with their total of 145 species!

A 10/20/74 offshore trip from Bodega Bay yielded as best birds: Pink-footed Shearwater, New Zealand (sic) Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, Pomarine Jaeger (5), Parasitic Jaeger (1), and Pigeon Guillemot (3). The Oct. program on the Marquesas Islands, one of the most remotest spots on earth, was presented by Clark Nattkemper. The club's fieldtrip to Hawk Mountain had as highlights Broad-winged Hawk and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. John Parmeter published a birding crossword puzzle in the month's Kite Tales.

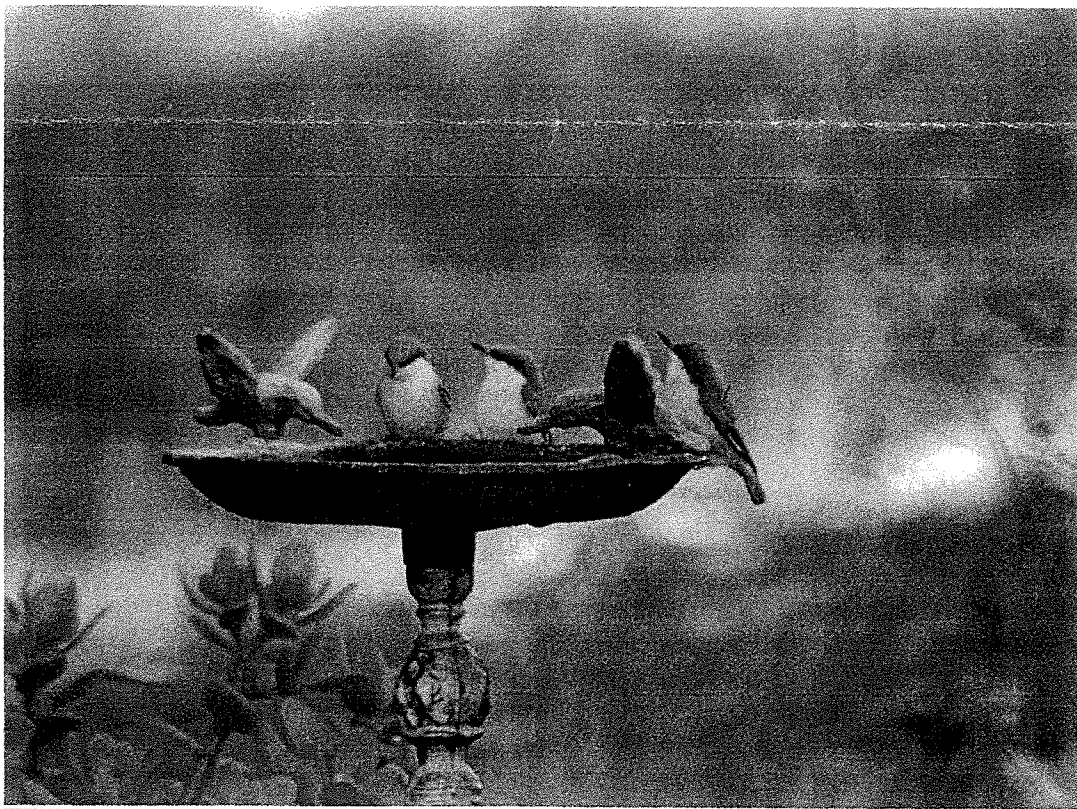
November field trips were to Graylodge Refuge and another led by Jack Arnold to Howarth Park. The annual Christmas Count was held on 12/22/74. The total was 125 species, plus 2 count period birds. Notable sightings: Prairie Falcon, Marbled Godwit, Black-throated-gray Warbler, Horned Grebe, and Swamp Sparrow. Compiler – Mike Parmeter. The January program was our first attempt at members' slides night.

February was our almost annual trip to Thornton in the Sacramento Valley and gained us Sand Hill Cranes and White-fronted Geese. Oliver Kolkman reported watching a Black-chinned Sparrow in his Ukiah yard. A checklist of the birds of Sonoma County was published in the newsletter. The meeting included a report on Pitkin Marsh. It contains a number of rare plants, including the Pitkin Lily (*Lilium pardolinus pitkinensis*). The marsh is just east of Forestville.

Peter Leveque presented the March program – a wonderful slide show of his trip to East Africa. He displayed a very large piece of elephant dung which he had brought back as a souvenir. The April program was a talk on Osprey nesting. Sightings included Nashville Warbler. An April field trip to Annadel was led by wildlife expert, Tim Tunison.

The May program on Marin water problems was given by Clem Zumwalt. The cost of the May offshore trip was \$12.50 (!), and a trip was taken up Ida Clayton Road on 5/10.

A delightful year! **Mike~**



P-nuts on the Birdbath, by Mookie Fudenberg

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

President - Ruth Rudesill	POB 371 Kenwood, CA 95452	ruthier@sonic.net	833-6026
Vice Pres - Terry Haag	1340 Big Plum Dr., Sebastopol 95472	teresitahaag@comcast.net	823-8527
Secretary - Rita Bevans	237 Deanna Pl. Windsor, Ca. 95492	ritanbill@comcast.net	484-3704
Treasurer - Don Howard	979 Hogwarts Circle, Petaluma 94954	binkybunji2@comcast.net	637-0868

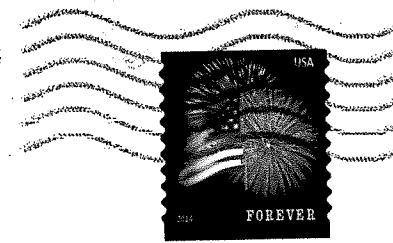
Committee Chairs

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 Bird Count - Bill Doyle	86 Westgate Circle, SRosa, 95401	shortbill@comcast.net	483-8773
Kite Tales - - Bill Doyle	86 Westgate Circle, SRosa, 95401	shortbill@comcast.net	483-8773
YAMS Coordinator - Lisa Hug	Sebastopol	lisahug@sonic.net	535-9370

Kite Tales Deadlines: Submit observations to David Hofmann, all other items to Bill Doyle by the 20th of the month.

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