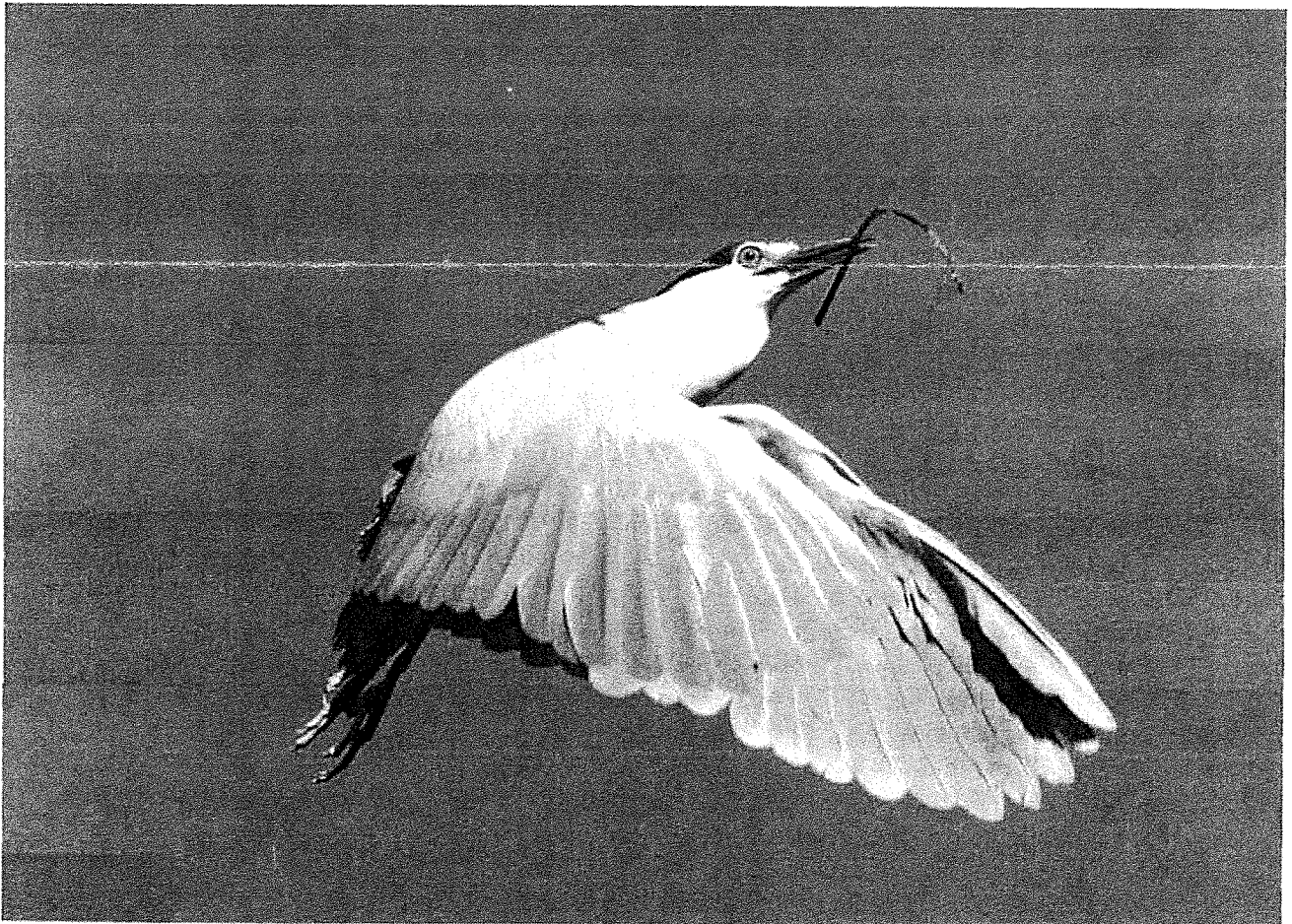




# Kite Tales

Volume 51 Number 9

May 2016



*Black-crowned Night Heron, nesting, by Tom Reynolds*

**RROS General Meeting, and potluck,  
Sugarloaf Ridge State Park  
May 11, 2016, 5:30 pm**

**Monthly Meeting, May 11, 2016, Annual Spring Potluck:** Meet at the picnic tables across from the main parking lot, at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park, at 5:30 pm. From Hwy 12, take Adobe Rd, just south of Oakmont, east. Follow Adobe Rd to its end in the park. Main parking lot is on the left, past the entrance kiosk.

**Save the date: September 14, 2016: Annual Fall Potluck:** Meet at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park, at 5:30 pm. See details above.

### **FIELD TRIPS –**

**Saturday, May 14, 2016: Pine Flat Road.** Leader, TBA. This is our last local 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 8 a.m. at Pine Flat Road, past the Jimtown store, where the road narrows, at the bridge. From Hwy 101, take Dry Creek exit to Healdsburg Av, to Alexander Valley Road, to Pine Flat Road. Bring optics, field guides, water, lunch, sunscreen, hats. Heavy rain cancels.

**RROsers:** I have decided to cancel our scheduled Memorial Day weekend field trip to Inyo and Mono counties, so we may attend Betty Burrige's memorial service, May 28. Betty was a stalwart of our organization and I felt many of us would want to attend the memorial. I will work the Inyo-Mono trip into our 2017 schedule.

Instead, let's plan a repeat of our Sierra Valley campout the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend this June, June 10-12. The description as last year is attached, FYI.

**Sierra Valley/Yuba Pass long weekend trip, Fri, June 10 – Sun, June 12, 2016**  
**Start Time: 9:00 am, Fri, June 10, at the Donner Camp Historical Site, on Hwy 89, just north of Truckee** Leader, Gene Hunn

This area is one of the most diverse and birdy areas of the California Sierra Nevada. The second weekend in June should be optimal for singing montane nesters. There is an excellent NFS campground at Cottonwood Creek, 4.5 miles south of Sierraville, along CA-89, and just 20 miles north of Truckee and I-80. The campground is quiet, comfortable, and very birdy, with Common Nighthawks and a nice mix of montane birds, including Hammond's and Dusky Flycatchers, Pewees, warblers, and woodpeckers, to greet you at dawn or dusk. Campfire sing-along is optional.

Accommodations in Sierra Valley are limited. Two very rustic options are the Sierra Valley Lodge, in Calpine, and the Golden West Saloon and Motel, in Loyalton. There are also many options in all styles and price ranges around Graeagle, in the north end of the valley, which can be accessed through Google. It would also be possible to stay in Truckee and commute via CA-89 to Sierra Valley (30 minutes).

The café in Sierra Valley is excellent for breakfast and dinner. Check open times. There is also a decent Mexican restaurant in Sierraville, the Dos Hermanos, which would be a convenient gathering point at the end of the day, with an evening campfire gathering for campers.

The official tour will begin at the Donner Camp Historical Site, on Hwy 89, just north of Truckee, at 9 AM Friday, and will conclude in the early afternoon Sunday near Truckee.

We will spend those days exploring the Sierra Valley and Yuba Pass areas, attempting to see as many of the wonderful birds that make it their summer home as possible.

If you plan to join us please RSVP via e-mail to Gene Hunn at [enhunn323@comcast.net](mailto:enhunn323@comcast.net).

**Sunday, August 14, 2016: High Summer Pelagic-** Join RROS on an "early season" pelagic trip to Bodega Canyon and Cordell Bank. Later in summer, we get bigger numbers of the usual species, but August offers a better chance for rarities. Think about South Pacific Albatrosses, Pterodroma Petrels, Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrels, and Frigatebirds. Please note that this trip fills quickly. The fee for this trip is \$140 per member, non-members pay \$160, which includes RROS membership and receipt of KT by Email; for Y.A.M.S. members (birders under 21 yrs of age) the fee is \$50. Send your checks, (dated 8-13-16 and payable to "Don Howard") [checks will not be deposited until after the pelagic trip] to Peter Colasanti, 524 East D St., Petaluma, CA 94952-3212; his Email is [peter\\_colasanti@yahoo.com](mailto:peter_colasanti@yahoo.com).

**Fall Pelagic Trip:** There will be a fall pelagic trip also, on Sunday, **October 9th**. Please see the website over the summer, and a notice in the September issue of Kite Tales. Reservation details will remain the same as above.

**Field Trip Report: Ruthie Rudesill, President-** April 9, 2016, to Lake and Colusa counties: Five participants braved the rain forecast, and were rewarded with a spectacular wild flower display in both Lake and Colusa counties. We spent time at the Cache Creek Wildlife area observing new spring arrivals, and Wood Ducks. Later riparian and grassland birds along Bear Valley Road in Colusa County, where we saw a lingering Ferruginous Hawk, Yellow-billed Magpie, Horned Lark. Best bird was Burrowing Owl, at the Bear Valley Ranch wildflower reserve.

I want to thank all our officers and committee chairs for their hard work this year! We're still looking for a Field Trip chair for next year.

**Observations: Mar. 21, 2016-Apr. 20, 2016      Compiled by David A. Hofmann**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Date/s</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Cty</b>	<b>Observer/s</b>
Snow Goose	3/23-4/10/16	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON 1	RAR, LiH, mob
Cackling Goose	4/06/16	Hwy 101 x Cotati	SON 999+	AIW fly-over
Cackling Goose	4/06/16	Jack London State Park	SON 75+	KaM fly-over
Cackling Goose	4/06/16	Bodega Bay	SON 350+	DeH fly-over
Blue-winged Teal	4/11-14/16	Petaluma/Willowbrook Ct	SON 1m1f	AIW, WeD, Ma&LuS
Redhead	4/12/16	Carmody Road pond	SON 1f	LiH
Harlequin Duck	4/09/16	Bill Kortum Trail	SON 1f	DaB
Hooded Merganser	4/11/16	Petaluma/Willowbrook Ct	SON 4f	AIW, WeD
<b>Murphy's Petrel</b>	4/01/16	far off shore pelagic	SON 1	RiT
American Bittern	3/26/16	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON 1	BoD heard only
American Bittern	4/13/16	Shollenberger Park	SON 1-2	RAR, mob
White-faced Ibis	3/23-4/13/16	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON 9	KeM, BoD, mob
Ferruginous Hawk	3/27/16	Tolay Lake Reg. Park	SON 1	JiC
Ferruginous Hawk	4/19/16	Sonoma private property	SON 1	LiH
<b>Common Blk Hawk</b>	3/26-4/12/16	Lynmar Winery	SON 1	ScC, BrO, mob

Merlin	3/23/16	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	1	RAR, mob
Merlin	3/24/16	Sebastopol yard	SON	1	MaJ
Merlin	3/26/16	Timberhill Road	SON	1	DaB
Merlin	3/27/16	Tolay Lake Reg. Park	SON	1	JiC
Merlin	4/16/16	Santa Rosa Creek Trail	SON	1	GoB, mob
<b>Sandhill Crane</b>	3/23-4/13/16	Delta Pond & Fields	SON	1	DoK, mob
<b>Solitary Sandpiper</b>	4/14/16	Petaluma/Willowbrook Ct	SON	1	Ma&LuS, LiH, BrO
Sabine's Gull	4/01/16	far off shore pelagic	SON	1	RiT
<b>Brewer's Sparrow</b>	4/16/16	King Ridge Cemetary	SON	1	BrO photos
<b>Vesper Sparrow</b>	3/27/16	Tolay Lake Regional Pk	SON	1	JiC
Red Crossbill	4/11/16	Willow Creek Road	SON	15	LiH,

**Observers for this period:** Dave Barry, Gordon Beebe, Scott Carey, Jim Chiropolos, Wendy Danridge, Bob Dyer, Denise Herzberg, Lisa Hug, Don Kirker, Marilyn Jones, Kevin Manly, Kathleen Mugele, Brook O'Connor, Ruth Ann Rudesill, Mark & Lucas Stephenson, Rick Taylor, Alan Wight  
**The compiler apologizes and takes full responsibility for omissions or errors regarding this list**

#### ***PISHING WITH PARMETER-*** THE MORNING OF THE SPOON-BILLED SANDPIPER

In February of 2000 our son, John Parmeter, and I participated in a two and a half week birding tour of Thailand. Neither of us had previously birded in Asia, except for the 13 months I spent in Korea and Japan, courtesy of the U.S. Army. Northern Thailand is in the eastern flank of the Himalaya Mts. so we were going to see a lot of new birds, including many new genera. The group was led by Phil Round (author of *A Field Guide to the Birds of Thailand*) and Jon Dunn (author of the *National Geographic Guide to North American Birds*). Thailand is a beautiful country with a great deal of land set aside as national parks, of which we visited several.

Our first morning was spent in the salt pans near the Gulf of Siam. Phil Round had mentioned a Spoon-billed Sandpiper being seen here during the winter; we set out to find it. We had spent nearly 3 hours searching when Phil called out, "There it is – the Spooner!" And there it was for all to see. We watched it for nearly 40 minutes before it flew off to the east. It was in a mixed flock of Rufous-necked Sandpipers, which it looked very similar to, and it was difficult to pick out. The bill looked ordinary when viewed from the side, but when seen from in front of the bird, its spatulate shape was easily noticed. Quite a bird! One book I have says there are 2500 left in the world; a second book says 1000 pairs.

Other lifers seen that morning included: Brown-headed Gull, Plain-backed Sparrow, Black Drongo, Little Bittern, Plain Prinia, Black-capped Kingfisher, Common Taylorbird (which stitched leaves together to form its nest), Greater Coucal (cuckoo), Edible-nest Swift, Asia Pied Starling, and Spotted Redshank. Quite a morning!

We had a wonderful Thai lunch in a restaurant overlooking a canal. Good birding, good companions. **Mike~**

***New Members:*** RROS welcomes **Susie and Earl Cummings**

***Donations in honor of Betty Burridge:***

**Michael Nelligan   Teresita Haag   John and Cynthia Rathkey   Don Howard  
 Mike and Sally Parmeter**

**Thinking of Betty-** I'm certain that many of us have been thinking of our beloved Betty Burrige, since her passing, last March 24<sup>th</sup>. Her energy, and friendliness, and enthusiasm, as well as her commitment to RROS, made her an important part of all of our lives. My first interaction with Betty has been on my mind, because, in many ways, it sums up a lot of what made me appreciate her so much.

I attended my first RROS meeting in March, 2008, shortly after having moved to Santa Rosa from San Diego. I knew no one here except my daughter and her family, for whom I had made the move. The first thing I did after settling in, of course, was to look for the local bird club. When I walked into that first meeting, down at the Water Treatment Plant, people were milling around, but Betty happened to be facing the door, and made eye contact with me as I entered. She smiled, walked over with her hand out, and introduced herself. I had no idea how important this nice, welcoming woman was, but I was about to find out.

Unknown to me then was the fact that the March meeting, each year, is the time that a search committee is formed to fill the seats of officers retiring in May. After I had told Betty where I had come from, and a bit of my experience, she looked at me conspiratorially and said, "Say...how would you like to be President of the club?" Sure she was joking, I said that I wasn't even a member yet, and hadn't met anyone but her. "Oh, that won't be a problem", she said, and I'm sure now that she was serious, and could have made it happen. She could have sold me to the club sight unseen, if she had wanted to. And I didn't know then what I found out later on, when I wanted to retire after three years as President myself, how tough it can be to get someone to volunteer to take your place. But Betty knew, and fresh blood would have worked out just fine.

Betty's contributions to RROS, and to birding and birders in Sonoma County are impossible to exaggerate, and are well known, but I will not forget what a warm, and funny, and supportive person she was too, over the few years I was privileged to know her. **Ed.**



**Common Yellowthroat, by Will German**

**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: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:nnamfob@comcast.net">nnamfob@comcast.net</a>	546-0325
Christmas Bird Count – Bill Doyle	86 Westgate Circle, SRosa, 95401	<a href="mailto:shortbill@comcast.net">shortbill@comcast.net</a>	483-8773
Kite Tales - – Bill Doyle	86 Westgate Circle, SRosa, 95401	<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**  
**Petaluma CA 94954**

SAN FRANCISCO CA 94101

28 APR 2016 PM 2 L



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

