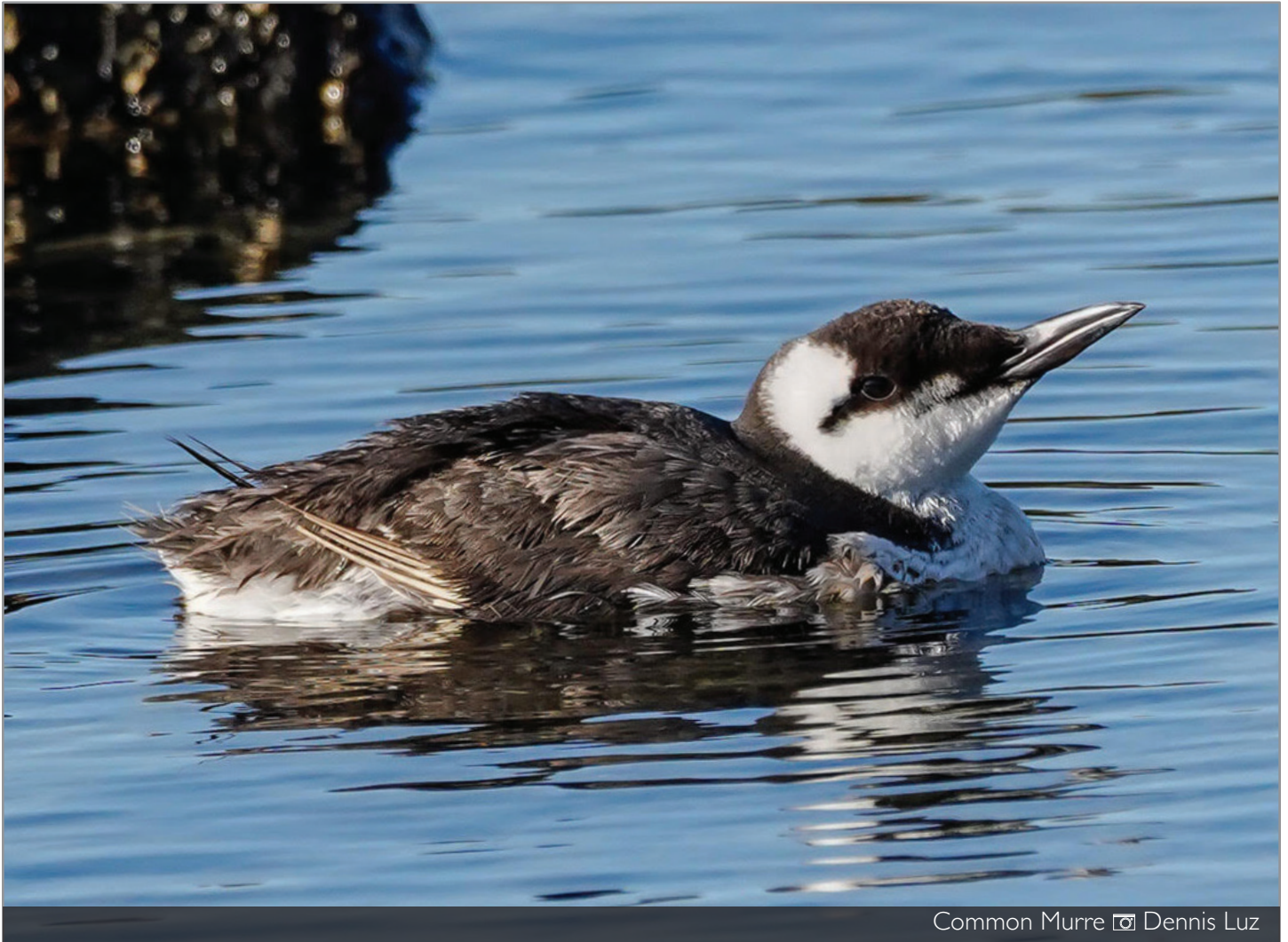


# KITE TALES

a monthly newsletter from the  
Redwood Region Ornithological Society

Volume 56 Number 8

April 2021



Common Murre  Dennis Luz



**Next RROS General Meeting**  
**April 14th // 7:00 pm**



**What's New on the RROS Website?**  
Watch March's RROS meeting and learn about Oaxaca's  
Tierra de Aves bird banding program over at the "Virtual  
Meetings" page!

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## SAVE THE DATE

### April Virtual Membership Meeting: Wednesday, April 14th via Zoom , 7 pm

*This month's presentation will be streamed live to all members with internet access. Streaming via Zoom will allow virtual attendance for many who otherwise could not attend in person, even pre-COVID!*

#### This month's virtual program: Sonoma County Focus with Wildlife Photographer Tom Reynolds



**About the speaker:** Photographer and Sonoma County Regional Parks birder extraordinaire, Tom Reynolds, will wrap up the most extraordinary year as presenter for the April 2021 RROS membership meeting. This will be the last Zoom meeting of the year and what better way to celebrate than by listening to Tom's great story-telling. We'll also of course enjoy his photos, the rewards of what he calls "the lazy man's approach" to wildlife viewing - the strategy of sitting and patiently waiting for the wildlife to come to you! An extremely talented photographer and observer of nature, Tom will share some contrasting images of "before and after" some of the recent Sonoma County fires. As a victim of the 2017 fires, he lost much of his photos, but that hasn't stopped him from starting anew and documenting what nature served up next. What a wonderful way to end this birding season in preparation for the next year! Join us!!

#### TO "JOIN" THE ZOOM MEETING

- 1) click on the "Join Zoom Meeting" link provided in the email sent by RROS. To protect the security of the meeting, this link will not be posted on the RROS website. The meeting is open to both RROS members and non-members. A non-member MUST contact Anne O'Donnell (auodonnell@gmail.com) to "register" their email contact info for the meeting (will be used ONLY for the purpose of verifying a friendly person).
- 2) Follow the prompts to download and run ZOOM and/or to ensure that you have the current version of the ZOOM app.
- 3) Enter the meeting ID NUMBER\*, if prompted. Enter the PASSCODE\*, if prompted.
- 4) Click to "join the audio conference". Once in the meeting, you may click on the "START VIDEO" or "JOIN VIDEO" button to Zoom yourself into the conference.
- 5) Once the presentation starts, please select the "mute" button to block audio from your station. At any time during and/or at the conclusion of the presentation, click on the "CHAT" button at the bottom of the screen to type in any comments or questions.

#### **Trouble Shooting:**

If the presenter and slides are blocked by the "windows" of other participants, click on "hide video panel", on the TOP RIGHT of your screen.

If you find that you've reached the "waiting room" and can't get into the meeting, or if you've been dropped from the meeting , PLEASE contact Rob O'Donnell, identify yourself and we'll try to make sure you can join.

\*More specific info will be sent in an email to all RROS members between now and the meeting time.

## UPCOMING RROS FIELD TRIPS & EVENTS

### RROS Field Trips in the Time of COVID-19

RROS is committed to making our field trips as safe as possible and to comply with current COVID-19 regulations. One of which is to limit gatherings to twelve people or fewer. In order to guarantee that, we will be requiring reservations to attend field trips. Spaces will be allocated on a first-come basis. Priority will go to RROS members; non-members are welcome, if space allows. In addition, face masks and/or social distancing will be required.

RSVP's can be made by sending a request to Malcolm Blanchard via email at [mab@mabco.com](mailto:mab@mabco.com), or by texting or phoning him at (707) 480-2210.

#### April 10, 2021, Pine Flat Road

Malcolm Blanchard will lead us on a trip along Pine Flat Road. Possible birds are Mountain Quail, Purple Martin, Bell's Sparrow, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, and California Thrasher. Bring lunch, fluids, and layered clothing. Please note there are no bathrooms. This is a narrow winding road, watch for bicyclists. **\*If you have been fully vaccinated for Covid, you are encouraged to carpool with other birders who have also been fully vaccinated, as fewer cars on this road, the better.**

To RSVP or more information, contact Malcolm Blanchard at (707) 480-2210.

#### Saturday, April 24, 2021 Riverfront Regional Park (7821 Eastside Rd, Healdsburg, CA 95448)

Join Teresa and Miles Tuffli for a morning of birding Riverfront Regional Park. We'll have the potential for many passerine species, including migrant songbirds. Riverfront Regional offers mostly flat trails traversing multiple habitats - redwoods, a large pond, riparian vegetation, and Russian River access. On this spring day, we'll also listen to a lovely soundscape of birdsong and we'll be on the lookout for nesting activity.

Park bathrooms are available. Heavy rain cancels. Bring a face mask, layers, water, lunch or snacks, and sunscreen. Note: There is a \$7 parking fee, unless you have a Sonoma County Regional Parks pass.

For more information contact Malcolm Blanchard (707) 480-2210.



Bring Lunch



Bring Water



Restrooms Not Available



Restrooms Available



Parking Fee

## Field Trip Reports

### Huichica Creek // February 27, 2021

On February 27, **Lucas Stephenson**, one of the stars of the YAMS, expertly led twelve birders on a trip to Huichica Creek in Napa County. The weather was beautiful, duck-hunting season was over, and a wonderful day was had by all. Highlights were a huge raft of about **500 Eared Grebe**, a flock of about **200 Greater White-fronted Geese**, a female **Blue-winged Teal**, and an early **Cliff Swallow**. These were in addition to **Dunlin**, **Semi-palmated Plovers** and other shore birds, **Virginia Rail** and **Sora**. A total of sixty-five species were seen. Lucas promises this spot will only get more birdy in March as the Spring migration gets into full tilt.

See the complete bird list here: <https://www.rros.org/ebird>

### Owling at Salmon Creek Road // March 13, 2021

Ten birders joined **Ruthie Rudesill** for an evening of owling at Salmon Creek Road at Fitzpatrick Lane. It was a windy, clear, cold evening and no moonlight. Sadly, it was pretty quiet - with short answers from **Western Screech-owl** and **Northern Pygmy-owl**. We heard a far away **Northern Saw-whet Owl** and most exciting was near-by bill clacking, but we could not locate the bird. We believe it was a Saw-whet too. Heard mysterious noises that Bob H recorded but sounded more mammal-like but unknown. Great star gazing and company.



# PISHING with PARMETER

COLOMBIA (AMAZON BASIN) : JULY 16, 1975

On 16 July 1975 we set out from Monkey Island and sailed up the Kiuru River, a small tributary of the Amazon. There were ten of us in three canoes.

At some point we landed on a sandy beach and went up a hill to an Indian village. The Indians sold us some souvenirs, some decorated with bird feathers, and were no doubt glad to get some cash. However, the village stank so badly that I went back to the beach and waited for the group.

In a dugout the front person does the paddling and directs the position of the boat. I always paddled; this allowed me to see the birds in the heavy stream-side growth.

Other birds observed during the day included **Chestnut-fronted Macaw**, **Brown-chested Martin**, **Capped Heron**, **Black-tailed Tityra**, **Striated Heron** (very similar to our Green Heron), **Pied Lapwing**, **Amazonian Umbrella-bird** (an impressive animal!), **Chestnut Jacamar**, **Yellow-tufted Woodpecker**, **Yellow-rumped Cacique** (like an oriole), **Chestnut-eared Aracari** (a toucan), **Bare-necked Fruitcrow**, **Scarlet-crowned Barbet**, **White-bellied Parrot**, **Paradise tanager** (a strikingly beautiful bird), **Black Caracara**, **Band-tailed Oropendola**, and **Masked Crimson Tanager**.

We immediately started ticking lifers. Slender-billed Kite was the first, and the second was Large-billed Tern. The latter species occurs all over the Amazon drainage in South America, and there are three or four vagrant records in the US. Other birds included **Ringed Kingfisher**, **Tropical Kingbird**, **Pale-vented Pigeon**, **Festive Parrot**, **Russet-backed Oropendola** (like a huge oriole), **Great Egret**, **Greater Ani**, **Black-capped Mockingthrush** (now Black-capped Donacobius), **Yellow-hooded Blackbird**, and **Yellow-billed Tern**. This last species is widespread in the Amazon Basin and resembles a **Least Tern**, whereas **Large-billed Tern** is much larger and reminds one of a skimmer.

Some other species that were new for the trip were **Blue-and-gold Macaw**, **Crested Oropendola**, **Lettered Aracari**, **Red-and-green Macaw**, **Cinnamon Attila**, **Buff-throated Woodcreeper**, and **Lesser Kiskadee**.

My day list included 32 life birds. One of the last, and one of the most spectacular, was a **Solitary Eagle**.

Birding is booming in Sonoma County



*Familiar RROS faces talk about familiar RROS places in this recent piece from The Press Democrat.*

Click the image for a link to the original article or visit

<https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/lifestyle/birding-is-booming-in-sonoma-county/?sba=AAS>

## OBSERVATIONS

February 21, 2020 to March 20, 2021 // COMPILED BY DAVID A. HOFMANN

Species	Date(s)	Location	Cty	#	Observer(s)
Tundra Swan	02/21-22/21	Santa Rosa Crk X Guerneville Rd	SON	7	JeK, RaH
Eurasian Wigeon	02/21/21-03/09/21	Doran Regional Park	SON	1m	AdB, LiH, MaW, ScC, Ch&TeW
Eurasian Wigeon	02/24/21	560 E. Watmagh Rd—Sonoma	SON	1m	MaIB
Eurasian Wigeon	03/03/21	Sonoma Baylands Trail	SON	1m	MiC
Redhead	02/22/21-03/06/21	Spring Lake Regional Park	SON	1f	JeV, LiF, MaG, BaK, MaL
White-winged Scoter	02/24/21	Jenner overlook	SON	1f	LiH
White-winged Scoter	03/17/21	Bodega State Park	SON	4	LiH
Black Scoter	03/01/21	Bodega harbor	SON	1	RoD
Black Scoter	03/18/21	Bodega Head State Park	SON	1m	MarB
Long-tailed Duck	03/04-12/21	Porto Bodega "Big Sexy"	SON	2	AIH, Ch&TeW, KEM, BrB photos
Long-tailed Duck	03/14--18/21	Bodega Head State Park	SON	2	LiH, MarB photos
Barrow's Golden-eye	02/26/21	Bodega harbor	SON	1m	MiS
Barrow's Golden-eye	03/06/21	Port Sonoma	SON	1m	CoH
Sooty Grouse	03/19/21	Stewarts Point Skaggs Sprngs Rd	SON	1m	DaL heard and seen
Pacific Golden-Plover	03/03/21	Doran Regional Park	SON	1	EuH, LiH
Pacific Golden-Plover	03/20/21	Doran Regional Park	SON	1	MaD photos
Black-legged Kittiwake	02/21/21	Bodega Head State Park	SON	2	ScC
Black-legged Kittiwake	03/17/21	Bodega Head State Park	SON	2	MarB
Glaucous Gull	02/22/21	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	ScC photos
Glaucous Gull	02/26/21	Bodega harbor	SON	1	AnE
Glaucous Gull	02/02/21	Salmon Creek mouth	SON	1	WhM photos
Glaucous Gull	03/18/21	Salmon Creek mouth	SON	1	MarB photos
Ashy Storm-Petrel	03/09/21	Doran Regional Park	SON	1	LiH
Northern Fulmar	02/21/21	Bodega Head State Park	SON	1	ScC
Barred Owl	03/01/21	9643 Pocket Canyon Hwy	SON	1	JoS heard only
Barred Owl	03/09/21	Johnson's Beach	SON	1	Te&MiT heard only
Barred Owl	03/14/21	Willow Creek Road	SON	1	ZeS heard only
Northern Saw-whet Owl	02/23/21	Sugar Loaf Ridge State Park	SON	1	JeV
Northern Saw-whet Owl	03/04/21	Salmon Creek Road	SON	1	PeD
Northern Saw-whet Owl	03/13/21	Salmon Creek Road	SON	1	RAR, MaIB, PeA RROS F/T
Red-naped Sapsucker	02/21-28/21	550 Salmon Creek Road	SON	1m	EmS, ScC, Ma&LuS photos
Hammond's Flycatcher	03/06-20/21	Tolay Regional Park	SON	1	KEM, ScS, WeB, MiL, Te&MiT, MatB photo
Canyon Wren	03/01/21	Robert Lewis Stevenson St. Pk	SON	1m	MarB photos
Townsend's Solitaire	03/05/21	Robert Lewis Stevenson St. Pk	SON	1	EuH
Evening Grosbeak	02/22/21	Forestville-Pocket Cyn Hwy	SON	2	JoS heard only
Red Crossbill	03/04/21	19900 Coleman Valley Road	SON	4	LiH heard only
Red Crossbill	03/06/21	Ocean Song Farm	SON	12	Br&OrO

Grasshopper Sparrow	03/14/21	Crane Creek Regional Park	SON	1	ScS
Harris's Sparrow	02/21/21- 03/0921	Freestone—12950 El Camino Bodega	SON	2	MarB, DaM, JoM, RoF, ThB, ZeS, KaM, NiB, DaB, JaD, MaR, Eu&NaH, WiH, GaP, ScC, MaL, DrD, EIC, MaW, DoF, WeD, LaN, AnL, DaF, WeP, ErS, RoL, WhM, Ma&LuS, AnE, JeK, BoH, KrD, BrD, EdM, BoB, Ro&AnO, MyL, AIH, DaK, Ch&TeW, DeH, AdC photos
Swamp Sparrow	02/21/21	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	1	LiF
Swamp Sparrow	03/07/21	Shollenberger Park	SON	4	DaW

## OBSERVERS FOR THIS PERIOD

Peggy Albright • Mario Balitbit • Matt Bango • Nicole Barden • Brian Barton • Bob Battagin • Wendy Beers • Danny Blackman • Malcolm Blanchard • Aidan Brubaker • Thy Bun • Scott Carey • Michael Carozza • Adam Cimino • Elizabeth Crouthamel • Drew Damsky • Wendy Dandridge • Brad Davis • Matt Davis • Peter Delavalle • Jazzy Dinger • Kris Dunlap • Roger Dunstan • Andrew Engilis • Robbie Fischer • Dawna Foreman • Linda Fraley • Donna Freeman • Mary Grishaver • Connie Haile • Derick Hameister • Bob Hasenick • Rachel Hazlett • William Hemstrom • Alex Henry • Eugene Hunn • Eugene & Nancy Hunn • Dan Kadra • Jered Karr • Barbara Kendrick • Matt Lau • My-Lan Le • David Leland • Ann Linder • Robert Louis • Miya Lucas • Kate E. Magoon • Keren Meridith • Eddie Monson • David Moring • Joseph Morlan • Whitney Mortimer • Larry Nigro • Brook & Orion Oconnor • Rob & Anne O'Donnell • Wendy Peterson • Garret Pierce • Mark Rauzon • Ruth Ann Rudesill • Eric Schroeder • Zeke Smith • Josh Snead • Scott Sorbey • Mark & Lucas Stephenson • Michael Stevens • Emilie Strauss • Teresa & Miles Tuffli • Jeff Valfer • David Wayte • Matthew Willcox • Chris & Teri Wills

## RROS MEMBER NEWS

Welcome new members: Garrett Pierce, Ellie and Lance Winters, Katie Clas, Wendy Palmer, Clayton Rucker, Aubrey Phipps-Parnay, Peggy Albright, and Alison Quoyeser.

We'd like to thank Don Howard for his generous donation and years of support as treasurer of RROS.

Thanks also to Peter Leveque for his donation and service as past president as well as a leader of many field trips over the years.

*Richard Bertoli of St. Helena passed away this past year. Rich and his wife, Linda, have been members of RROS for almost fifty years. Rich was a Pan Am pilot and traveled the world, often with his family. He loved nature and as an avid birder had an extensive life-list. Donations can be made to St. Helena Saints Athletic Association or St. Helena Volunteer Fire Department. Our sincere condolences go to the Bertoli family.*

## PHOTO GALLERY



Hammond's Flycatcher • Tolay Regional Park 📷 Teresa Tuffli



Hermit Thrush • West County Trail 📷 Teresa Tuffli

*Calling all photographers! Do you have photos you'd like to share? We'd love to feature them! Send in your high resolution photos to the Kite Tales editor, Eva Valfer (evaantonvalfer@gmail.com) by the 20th of each month to be featured in upcoming newsletters.*



Common Murre displaying plumage in molt • Inner Bodega Bay • March 24 📷 Dennis Luz



## ABOUT RROS

*Redwood Region Ornithological Society was organized in 1962 “to encourage the study and conservation of birds, other wildlife, and their natural habitat.”*

In compliance with local Sonoma County Covid-19 guidelines, meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month October through April, at 7 pm virtually via Zoom.

Sept & May meetings are held outside at 5:30pm.

Annual dues are \$20 per individual, \$25 per family, and \$5 per student.

Dues can be sent to RROS Treasurer Rob O'Donnell, 421 St. Mary Place, Santa Rosa, CA 95409

**Visit us on the web at [www.RROS.org](http://www.RROS.org)**

## RROS STAFF

### OFFICERS

President: Anne O'Donnell.....auodonnell@gmail.com // 707-312-2376  
 Vice President: Eugene Hunn .....enhunn323@comcast.net // 707-981-7301  
 Secretary: Peter Colasanti.....peter\_colasanti@yahoo.com // 707-780-7296  
 Treasurer: Rob O'Donnell.....robodonnell1@outlook.com // 707-694-9776

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Field Trips: Malcolm Blanchard.....mab@mabco.com // 707-480-2210  
 Observations: David A. Hofmann .....nnamfoh@comcast.net // 707-546-0325  
 Christmas Bird Count: Eugene Hunn.....enhunn323@comcast.net // 707-981-7301  
 Kite Tales: Eva Valfer.....evaantonvalfer@gmail.com // 714-651-4460  
 YAMS Coordinator: Lisa Hug.....lisahug@sonic.net // 707-535-9370  
 Membership: Rob O'Donnell.....robodonnell1@outlook.com // 707-694-9776  
 Website: Teresa & Miles Tuffli.....milestuffli@gmail.com // 707-331-2709

Kite Tales deadline is the 20th of each month. Observations may be sent to David A. Hofmann.  
 All other content may be sent to Eva Valfer.