


KITE TALES

a monthly newsletter from the
Redwood Region Ornithological Society

Volume 56 Number 4

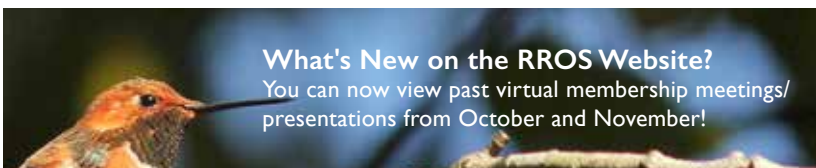
December 2020



Lapland Longspur  Rob O'Donnell



Next RROS General Meeting
December 9th // 7:00 pm



What's New on the RROS Website?
You can now view past virtual membership meetings/
presentations from October and November!

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SAVE THE DATE

December Virtual Membership Meeting: Wednesday, December 9th 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: Member Showcase (our final meeting of 2020)



Please consider actively participating this month with a sample of your photos, bird recordings, bird artwork, sketches, or any other bird-inspired offerings, eg, best homemade suet or seeded peanut butter recipe? bird-themed COVID-proof mask?

You don't have to be a computer expert to participate. But PLEASE let me know by December 1 that you'd like to contribute so that we can do some organization and to ensure that your chosen format will work best for sharing from wherever you're Zooming. For those of you who have attended our recent Zoom meetings, you've seen that, with a flip of a switch, the screen can be shared from different locations.

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, or by texting or phoning him at (707) 480-2210.

December 12, 2020, Arrowhead Marsh in Oakland

There will be a king tide the morning of December 12 at 9:36 AM. Last year during a similar king tide, there were Ridgway's Rails and Sora seen out in the open, and a flyby of Black Rail. After the rail extravaganza, a Nelson's Sparrow showed up for many to see. The marsh has wonderful boardwalks for birders to watch from.

Since this is a public park, reservations are not required. You may wish to show up in the parking lot (37.7418585, -122.2089807) before 9:00 AM. Bathrooms are available. Bring a face mask and lunch.

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

December 20, 2020, Santa Rosa Christmas Bird Count

Unfortunately, there will be no compilation dinner this year due to COVID-19.

For more details on this year's count, please contact the CBC coordinator/compiler Gene Hunn at enhunn323@comcast.net.

January 9, 2021, Colusa National Wildlife Refuge

Peter Colasanti will lead us on a tour of this fabulous wintering spot on the Pacific Flyway. Expect large numbers of waterfowl, including huge numbers of Snow Geese (both white and dark morphs) and Ross's Geese. We should see a variety of ducks and other wetland species, including White-faced Ibis. Exact time and place to meet will be provided when you sign up. Bring a facemask and lunch. Some of us may stop by the Maxwell Cemetery afterwards to search for the regularly overwintering Vermilion Flycatcher.

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

January 23, 2021, Tolay Regional Park Short-eared Owls at Dusk

We'll spend the late afternoon observing local raptors, as we wait for sun-down and for Short-eared Owls to replace Northern Harriers in their shared hunting niche. These owls are magnificent creatures that glide silently over the marsh in the diminishing light of the day. Exact time and place to meet will be provided when you sign up.

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

 : Bring Lunch

 : Bring Water

 : Restrooms Available

 : Parking Fee

FIELD TRIP REPORT

RROS Field Trip Report, San Pablo Bay sites, November 14, 2020, Gene Hunn, leading.

Ten of us met at 8 AM at the abandoned Sonoma Port Marina at the Petaluma River bridge just south of SR 37. A variety of shorebirds were in view, notably a large contingent of some 300 Willets, flashing their black-and-white wings in sync, with many Least Sandpipers and Dunlin probing the mud. No sign of the resident Ridgway's Rails however. Bufflehead and Common Goldeneyes cruised the river on the rising tide and we spotted a kite, two harriers, two Red-tails, two kestrels, and a merlin to start off the raptor count. Also, lots of White-crowned Sparrows and several bright yellowthroats.

Next stop was the Reclamation Road access to the San Pablo NWR dike. However, we found that a king tide had covered most of the shoreline, limiting our list to a nice flock off Canvasbacks, a close-up adult Herring Gull, plus more kites, harriers, kestrels, and Red-tailed Hawks, and a napping Great Horned Owl in the eucalyptus grove at the Leonard Ranch (visited with permission). More sparrows in the brush, including Fox, Golden-crowned, Song, and a Lincoln's, plus a late Tree Swallow.

Moving right along, we passed the flooded Tolay Creek estuary at the Tubbs Island trail head and continued to the Skaggs Island bridge access road. A hike to the bridge from highway 37 crosses slices of Solano, Napa, and Sonoma Counties, each requiring a separate e-bird list. The Napa county segment was the most productive, with a massive roosting flock of mostly Dunlin (at least 10,000), but with a scattered few Black-necked Stilts, Killdeer, Long-billed Curlews, Marbled Godwits, Greater Yellowlegs, plus Least Sandpipers and lone Long-billed Dowitcher and American Avocet. The surprise here were the flocks of hundreds of Black-bellied Plovers streaming in to roost from the southeast, apparently displaced by the king tide, totaling over 1000 birds. A pair of Merlins made close passes as we stood atop the Sonoma slough bridge scanning the distant Skaggs Island reserve.

No great rarities but a beautiful autumn day in the field.

Habitat Heroes For a Bird Friendly Garden

an excerpt from "Wildscaping for Songbirds" presentation by Veronica Bowers, Native Songbird Care and Conservation



- Live Oak and Willow
- Coffee berry
- Coyote Brush
- Ceanothus
- Saltbrush/quailbrush
- Toyon
- Robes
- Mallow
- Elderberry
- Wild Grape
- Monkey Flower
- Buckwheat
- Aster
- Seaside Daisy
- California Fuchsia

Did you miss last month's presentation? Don't fret! Full length RROS presentations can be found archived on the RROS website. Bookmark [this link](https://www.rros.org/virtualmeetings) (or type in <https://www.rros.org/virtualmeetings>) to keep handy access to the archive of our virtual presentations.

OBSERVATIONS

October 21, 2020 to November 20, 2020 // COMPILED BY DAVID A. HOFMANN

Species	Date(s)	Location	Cty	#	Observer(s)
Tundra Swan	10/26/20	Bodega harbor	SON	5	ScC, DeF, MarB photos
Tundra Swan	10/29/20	Shollenberger Park	SON	3	Te&MiT, MaLB, mob
Tundra Swan	11/14/20	Willow Creek Camp Road	SON	3	DaM
Redhead	10/26/20	Bodega harbor	SON	2	MarB, ScC
Barrow's Goldeneye	11/15/20	Russian River-Jenner	SON	1m	EzG photos
White-winged Scoter	10/21- 11/07/20	Bodega harbor	SON	1	MarB, JoS photo
Pacific Golden Plover	11/16/20	Bird Walk coastal access	SON	1	MarB, mob audio
South Polar Skua	11/01/20	Near Shore Pelagic	SON	2	mob
Ancient Murrelet	10/24/20	Bodega Head State Park	SON	1	Ma&LuS
Ancient Murrelet	10/29/20	South Salmon Creek Beach	SON	1	MarB fly-by
Tufted Puffin	11/01/20	Near Shore Pelagic	SON	1	mob
Sabine's Gull	11/01/20	Near Shore Pelagic	SON	1	mob
Least Bittern	11/20/20	Ellis Creek Pond-pond "C"	SON	1	RoS, Te&MiT photos
White-faced Ibis	11/01/20	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	6	ScB, AnL, ReM photos
White-faced Ibis	11/18-20/20	Hudeman Slough	SON	13	MiC, SyS, CaP, PaD, LiH
Swainson's Hawk	11/20/20	Jenner Headlands	SON	1	DaB, JeM, mob photo
Long-eared Owl	10/23/20	Kenwood yard	SON	1	RAR
Red-naped Sapsucker	11/07-15/20	544-550 Salmon Creek Road	SON	1	JoS, ZaP, AIW photos
Rock Wren	11/01/20	Sea Ranch	SON	1	KaW photo
Evening Grosbeak	10/21/20	Braehurst Lane	SON	10	DaLu fly-over
Evening Grosbeak	11/01/20	Boyes Hot Springs-FaFa House	SON	6	Je&EvV fly-over
Evening Grosbeak	11/05/20	Bodega Bay-Gafney Point	SON	2	MarB fly-over & heard
Red Crossbill	10/29/20	Guerneville-McCray Ridge Rd	SON	5	ZeS fly-over
Lapland Longspur	10/26/20	Doran Regional Park	SON	1	MarB photos
Lapland Longspur	10/28- 11/02/20	Bodega Head State Park	SON	1	MarB, LiH, JoS, ToB, MaLB, CoM, ChV, Eu&NaH, BrO, DoK, Je&EvV, DeF, DAH, RoP, TiE, JaS, KEM, KrK, RiL, Ri&AmB, CaT, LuS, Eml, BDP, DaN, GaP, DaLe, RAR, MaL, OsM, ScS, MaW CoH, MiH, DoS, PaD, mob photos
Snow Bunting	10/31/20	Salmon Crk mouth X Hwy 1	SON	1	LuS, Eml heard fly-over
Swamp Sparrow	10/24/20	Larkfield-Wikiup area	SON	1	KEM photos
Swamp Sparrow	10/31- 11/15/20	Salmon Creek-Bean Avenue	SON	1	LuS, Eml, LiH, Eu&NaH, Jos, MaLB, AIW photos
Hermit Warbler	11/02/20	Guerneville-Siri Road	SON	1f	Te&MiT
Black-throated Blue Warbler	10/24/20	Willow Creek Road	SON	1m	Te&MiT, MaLB, Eu&NaH, BriO, JoU, WiP, mob
Palm Warbler	10/26/20	Bodega Bay-Tides Wharf Area	SON	1	MarB heard only

Palm Warbler	10/26- 11/18/20	Valley Ford Wetlands	SON	3	ScC, LiH, EzG, Te&MiT, Eu&NaH, Ri&AmB, LuS, Eml, BDP, DaN, EIL, JoS, DaLe, Mal&BeB, MarB photos
Palm Warbler	10/28/20	Braehurst Lane	SON	1	DaLu photo
Palm Warbler	11/04/20	Doran Regional Park	SON	1	MarB
Scaly-breasted Munia	10/27/20	Laguna Farm-Sebastopol	SON	1	JoS photos & audio

OBSERVERS FOR THIS PERIOD

Mario Balitbit • Dave Barry • Rick & Ami Bergstrom • Malcolm Blanchard • Malcolm & Beatrice Blanchard • Tony Briggs • Scott Carey • Michael Carozza • Patricia DiLuzio • Tiffany Erickson • Dea Freid • Ezra Garfield • Connie Haile • Michael Hingerty • David A. Hofmann • Lisa Hug • Eugene & Nancy Hunn • Emmett Iverson • Donald Kirker • Kris Kordana • Max Laubstein • Rick LeBaudour • Elizabeth Lewis • Ann Linder • David Lumpkin • Kate E. Magoon • Jerry Meshulem • David Moring • Rebecca Matsubara • Colin Meusel • Oscar Moss • Christian Naventi • Dan Nelson • Brook Oconnor • Rob O'Donnell • Brigid O'Dowd • Carla Parkinson • Benjamin D. Parmeter • William Penny • Garrett Pierce • Zane Pickus • Ron Pozzi • Ruth Ann Rudesill • Doug Shaw • Zeke Smith • Josh Snead • Jackie Sones • Scott Sorby • Lucas Stephenson • Mark & Lucas Stephenson • Ron Storey • Sylvie Silverstein • Cameron Tescher • Teresa & Miles Tuffli • John Urbanski • Jeff & Eva Valfer • Chuck Vaughn • Alan Wight • Karen Wilkenson • Matthew Willcox



Photo Courtesy of Teresa Tuffli

And A Partridge In A Pear Tree

In a time of self-isolation, what better place to go birding than right here in Kite Tales? Find 26 bird names (3 are Latin or taxonomic). Up, down, diagonal, backwards - try them all !!

I	B	I	S	I	R	E	L	B	R	A	W	A	D
A	I	H	C	I	R	T	O	N	O	Z	S	C	M
R	A	E	E	R	A	V	E	N	Q	U	A	I	L
R	E	L	O	I	R	O	O	R	E	I	B	R	G
P	I	P	I	T	N	U	T	H	A	T	C	H	A
W	L	R	H	U	M	M	I	N	G	B	I	R	D
A	L	B	A	T	R	O	S	S	H	H	T	D	W
V	E	R	D	I	N	E	M	A	U	C	N	N	A
E	J	U	R	L	C	G	P	N	N	N	G	A	L
I	U	I	L	E	R	R	H	A	I	I	E	H	L
P	N	I	O	V	O	E	N	E	X	F	S	X	L
G	C	E	O	O	W	T	A	N	A	G	E	R	L
A	O	I	N	D	B	L	U	E	B	I	R	D	U
M	S	A	N	D	P	I	P	E	R	U	R	I	A

PHOTO GALLERY



◀ Palm Warbler // Valley Ford Wetlands // Teresa Tufli



Spotted Sandpiper // Russian River Guerneville // Teresa Tufli

DONATIONS: December is the time that we decide about donations to bird-related non-profits. Please send suggestions to Rob O'Donnell for worthy 2020-21 recipient organizations. Either re-nominate A previous recipient or nominate a new group.

Some recent recipients:

- Native Songbird Care and Conservation
- Bird Rescue Center of Sonoma County
- Audubon Canyon Ranch • Mountain Lion Project
- Point Blue bird banding program at the Palomarin Field Station
- BirdLife Australia, in support of their work during and after the wildfires in 2019
- Tierra de Aves A.C., Oaxaca, Mexico - dedicated to bird conservation and habitat



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

RROS STAFF

OFFICERS

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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.