

# KITE TALES

a monthly newsletter from the  
Redwood Region Ornithological Society

Volume 55, Number 6

February 2020



Sandhill Cranes, Isenberg Crane Reserve  Rob O'Donnell



**Next RROS General Meeting**  
February 12th // 7 pm



**What's New on the RROS Website?**  
Check in on our youth birding club, the Y.A.M.S.,  
at their page on RROS.org!

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## SAVE THE DATE

Monthly Meeting: Wed, Feb 12th, First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Dr, Santa Rosa 7pm

This month's program: Join us as *Matt Clark*, discusses *Point Blue's "Soundscapes to Landscapes" Project*

**Soundscapes to Landscapes (S2L)** is a NASA-funded project led by Dr. Matthew Clark of the Center for Interdisciplinary Geospatial Analysis (CIGA), in Geography, Environment and Planning at Sonoma State University. Project collaborators are affiliated with Point Blue Conservation Science, Northern Arizona University, UC Merced, Audubon California, Pepperwood Preserve, and the Sonoma County Agriculture Preservation and Open Space District. The broad goal of the project is to advance animal diversity monitoring from the next generation of Earth-observing satellites. The project uses sounds recorded from low-cost recorders placed in the field (i.e., soundscapes) and bioacoustics analysis to identify bird species by their calls and measure overall avian diversity. Bird diversity data are used by the science team to explore the benefits and trade-offs in using new and existing sensors in space for mapping of bird diversity and conservation planning.

A critical component of S2L is a partnership with "citizen scientists", or volunteers in the community, that help with placement of recorders on public and private lands, assist with data management, identify bird calls in sound recordings, and train machine learning models. Since starting in spring 2017, fifty citizen scientists have donated approximately 3,800 hours of time. Working with landowners, public agencies, and land conservation organizations, citizen scientists have placed recorders at over 593 sites around the county. The science team has just begun to tap the information stored in these audio data. Soundscapes to Landscapes is funded for three years, but the project seeks to build a citizen science and data processing system that can scale to larger regions with private funding.



### About the speaker:

Dr. Matthew Clark is a professor in the Geography, Environment, and Planning department at Sonoma State University. He has a PhD in Geography from University of California, Santa Barbara and a MSc in Conservation and Ecosystem Analysis from University of Washington. He teaches classes in geographic information systems (GIS) and remote sensing. His research is focused on using novel forms of remote sensing, including satellites, airplane sensors and drones, for monitoring biodiversity, assessing land change, and helping conservation and land management.

Next month's program: **Birds of Guyana**

*Ken Wilson, RROS Member and Tour Guide for Eco-Friendly Birding in Costa Rica, Argentina, New Zealand, Panama, Guyana and more visit [www.Talontours.com](http://www.Talontours.com) for more info*

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## UPCOMING RROS FIELD TRIPS & EVENTS

- **February 8 – Arrowhead Marsh, MLK Regional Shoreline, Oakland - 8:30am meet up & carpool departure**  
Meet at the Petaluma Park and Ride at the intersection of Highway 116 and Highway 101 at 8:30am. We will carpool from there. There is a very high tide (7.8) at 10:54am on February 8. This means that it might be possible to see Ridgway's Rails and Black Rails. There might even be a chance of seeing a Swamp Sparrow or a Nelson's Sparrow. As always, bring binoculars and field guide, water and snacks and layered clothing.  
*For more information please contact Lisa Hug - [Lisahug@sonic.net](mailto:Lisahug@sonic.net)*
- **Saturday, Feb 29 - Santa Rosa Creek Trail led by YAMS (Young Ancient Murrelets) - Santa Rosa 8:30 am**  
Meet on Willowside Road at the Santa Rosa Creek Trailhead (near the Summerfield Waldorf School). Our Youth Group will lead the club down the Santa Rosa Creek Trail to Delta Pond. We will circle the pond and return to our cars around noon. Bring layered clothing, binoculars (scope if you are willing to carry it), water and snacks.  
See you then! *For more information please contact Lisa Hug - [Lisahug@sonic.net](mailto:Lisahug@sonic.net)*

# 2019 RROS ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

CATEGORY		1/1/19 - 12/31/19	
<b>INCOME</b>		<b>12,956.00</b>	<b>12,956.00</b>
	Books-BofSC	50	50
	Member Donation	3,005.00	3,005.00
	Membership Dues	2,360.00	2,360.00
	Pelagic Trip 2019/8/25	2,500.00	2,500.00
	Pelagic Trip 2019/9/22	2,350.00	2,350.00
	Pelagic Trip 2019/10/6	2,100.00	2,100.00
	RROS Caps Sales	591	591
<b>EXPENSE</b>		<b>-11,759.83</b>	<b>-11,759.83</b>
	Business Expenses	-33	-33
	- Postage and Delivery (Business)	-33	-33
	Donation- Bird Rescue Center of Sonoma County	-500	-500
	Donation-Audubon Canyon Ranch	-500	-500
	Donation-Native Songbird & Conservation	-500	-500
	Donation-Tierra de Aves, Mexico	-175	-175
	Education	-875	-875
	Equipment	-58.14	-58.14
	Food & Dining	-70	-70
	- Restaurants	-70	-70
	Kite Tales	-455.56	-455.56
	Liability Insurance Policy	-600	-600
	Meeting Room Rental	-1,050.00	-1,050.00
	Office Expense	-136.58	-136.58
	Pelagic Charter 2019	-5,700.00	-5,700.00
	Postage	-238.41	-238.41
	RROS Caps Purchase	-613.37	-613.37
	Tax	-20	-20
	- State	-20	-20
	Web Fees	-144	-144
	Y.A.M.S.-Expense	-90.77	-90.77
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,196.17</b>	<b>1,196.17</b>



## Field Trip report for San Joaquin River NWR Jan 11, 2020 by Ruthie Rudesill

A combination trip with Marin Audubon resulted in 29 participants. After some morning mishaps, we all got together at the refuge viewing platform. There were hundreds of geese and some ducks along with eagles. We spent most of the day on the trails near the ponds at the refuge headquarters. Sadly, no riparian brush rabbits showed themselves. But we had skeins of **geese, White Pelicans** and **Sandhill Cranes** flying over all day. Close up sightings of **Wilson's Snipe, Sora, Pipits, Greater Yellowlegs** and **various ducks**. Scope views of **American Bittern** and **Loggerhead Shrike**.



# PISHING with PARMETER

OAXACA, MEXICO: March 8-9 1968  
 On The Road Between Oaxaca City And Puerto Escondido

We camped here for two days. Jack Arnold was collecting small land mammals for the California Academy of Sciences. I was along as a

passenger and was birding daily. On 8 March we camped at kilometer 128 and on 9 March at kilometer 136.

Observations on March 8th included the following: **Blue-throated Hummingbird, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Turkey Vulture, Red-shafted Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker** (common), **Coue's Flycatcher** (now Greater Pewee), **Tufted Flycatcher, Steller's Jay** (with a different face pattern than California birds), **Bridled Titmouse, Black-eared Bushtit** (common) **Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue Mockingbird** (a lifer), **Brown-backed Solitaire** (wonderful song!), **Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Cedar**

**Waxwing, Gray Silky Flycatcher** (extremely handsome, lifer), **Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo** (lifer), **Audubon's Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Painted Redstart, Hepatic Tanager, Scott's Oriole, Black-headed Siskin, Black-throated Gray Warbler,** and **Orange-crowned Warbler.**

The next day, March 9th, was spent birding in a valley at lower elevation with a nice running stream. Sightings included **Thick-billed Kingbird, Vaux's Swift** (probably this species), **Lesser Roadrunner, Spotted Sandpiper, Cooper's Hawk, Western Tanager, House Wren, Bullock's Oriole, Vermilion Flycatcher, Lark Sparrow** (very common), and **White-fronted Parrot.**

Overall, the avifauna here contained lots of US birds, but we were beginning to find Middle American species.

## OBSERVATIONS

December 21, 2019 to January 20, 2020 // COMPILED BY DAVID A. HOFMANN

Species	Date(s)	Location	Cty	#	Observer(s)
Tundra Swan	01/09-19/20	Sebastopol Community Center—in north field	SON	1im	Many observers photos
Eurasian Wigeon	01/09-20/20	Shollenberger Park	SON	1m	DoP, WeD, MalB, JoS, RoS, EuH, AIW photos
Eurasian Wigeon	01/17/20	Doran Regional Park pond	SON	1m	ChD, BrO., JoS., DeH, PhG, MalB mob photo
Redhead	12/23/19	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	1f	BDP, JP
Redhead	12/24/19-01/19/20	Bodega Farm Pond	SON	1f	JoS, GaT, DaL, EuH, JeV, BrM, photo
Redhead	01/08-20/20	Bodega harbor	SON	1m	ScC, Te&MiT photos
Barrow's Goldeneye	01/01-20/20	Campbell Cove State Beach	SON	2f	ScC, DeH, RoS, MalB, ReC, CoM photo
Black Scoter	12/28/19	Mouth of Russian River	SON	2f	BDP, JP
White-winged Scoter	12/24/19-01/11/20	Doran Regional Park	SON	1f 1m	JoS, StA, DeH, GoB, RoS, KaM, ChD. mob photos
White-winged Scoter	12/28/19	Mouth of Russian River	SON	1f	BDP, JP
Black-legged Kittiwake	01/14/20	Doran Regional Park beach	SON	1	BrO photos
Glaucous Gull	12/21/19	Doran Regional Park beach	SON	1im	BDP, JP
Glaucous Gull	12/29/19-01/02/20	Jenner Overlook WSC-CBC	SON	1im	DoK, Te&MiT, BiD, BaW, mob
Glaucous Gull	01/15/20	Sea Ranch—Pebble Beach	SON	1im	Bi&PaL, DiH, CrT photos

Glaucous Gull	01/15/20	Shollenberger Park	SON	1 im	LiH, CoH photos
Lesser Black-backed Gull	01/11-12/20	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	NoA, JoB photo
Least Bittern	12/30/19	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	1	MaG photo
White-faced Ibis	12/26/19-01/11/20	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	EIC, NoA
White-faced Ibis	01/09/20	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	1	KaM photos
Common Black Hawk	12/30/19	Frei Road	SON	1	AIL
Barred Owl	01/11/20	Forestville, Woodside Dr.	SON	1	MarB heard only
Short-eared Owl	12/26/19-01/05/20	Tolay Lake Regional Park	SON	3	JoD, Andy&Dave LaCasse, ReC, ChN
Short-eared Owl	12/27/19	Burndale Road Gun Club	SON	1	Ma&LuS
Short-eared Owl	01/01/20	Hudemann's Slough	SON	1	GaT
Short-eared Owl	01/17/20	Bodega Head State Park	SON	2	Te&MiT photo
Saw-whet Owl	12/27/19	Trinity Road SVCBC	SON	1	RAR
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	12/28/19	Shiloh Ranch Regional Park	SON	1f	AnE photos
Red-naped Sapsucker	12/27/19	Petaluma Adobe State Park	SON	1f	BeP, LiH, ToB. ReM, JeV, DaL, WiG, RoS, mob photos
Red-naped Sapsucker	01/01/20	Westside Farms	SON	1	CIR
Tropical Kingbird	12/30/19-01/03/20	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	1	EuH, MiH, CoH, PeC
Rock Wren	01/18/20	Milt Brandt Visitor Center	SON	1	CaW, StD, mob
Mountain Bluebird	12/23/19	West County Trail	SON	1f	KaM photo
Evening Grosbeak	01/01-14/20	Salmon Creek Road	SON	20	ScC, JaS, DeF, JoS, EuH, ReC, GaT, CoM photos & recording
Red Crossbill	01/12/20	Laguna Road home	SON	1	GoB fly-over
Red Crossbill	01/15/20	Bodega Bay – Highway 1	SON	8	JaS fly-over

**OBSERVERS FOR THIS PERIOD**

Stuart Angerer • Noah Arthur • Gordon Beebe • Jonah Benningfield • Malcolm Blanchard • Tony Briggs • Scott Carey • Peter Colasanti • Reef Comer • Elizabeth Crouthamel • Wendy Dandridge • John Dell'Osso • Bill Doyle • Chris Dunford • Dea Freid • Steven Donnelly • Philip Georgakakos • Will German • Mary Grishaver • Connie Haile • Mike Hansen • Denise Herzberg • Diane Hichwa • Lisa Hug • Eugene Hunn • Don Kirker • David Leland • Bill & Paget Lenarz • Albert Linkowski • Kaitlin Magoon • Renee Masotti • Bruce Mast • Colin Meusel • Christian Naventi • Brook OConnor • Benjamin D. "Mike" Parmeter • John Parmeter • Donald Pendleton • Beatrice "Bea" Pezzolo • Claire Ramey • Ruth Ann Rudesill • Josh Snead • Jackie Sones • Mark & Lucas Stephenson • Ron Storey • Gabriel Tarantino • Craig Tooley • Teresa & Miles Tuffli • Jeff Valfer • Bart Wickel • Alan Wight • Catherine Wolf

*Kite Tales deadline is the 20th of each month  
Observations may be sent to David A. Hofmann*



This Tundra Swan, found by Gene Hunn, was initially thought to be a Trumpeter Swan. Its discovery prompted a lively and informative conversation around the complexities surrounding identifying juvenile swan species.

# PHOTO GALLERY

*Love is in the air .....*



Forster's Tern // Hyw 37 , Solano County

📷Teresa Tuffli



Snow Geese // Colusa NWR

📷Rob O'Donnell



Brown Pelican // Bodega Bay 📷 Rob O'Donnell



Canada Jay // Southern Oregon

📷Rick LeBaudour



Chipping Sparrow // West County Trail, Forestville

📷Teresa Tuffli



Northern Shrike // Southern Oregon  Rick LeBaudour



Red-tailed Hawk // Southern Oregon  Rick LeBaudour




Red-shouldered Hawk // Olompali Park, Novato  Teresa Tuffli



Rough-legged Hawk // Southern Oregon  Rick LeBaudour



Short-eared Owl at Dusk, Bodega Bay  Teresa Tuffli



## ABOUT RROS

*Redwood Region Ornithological Society 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 October through April, at 7 pm at the First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Dr, Santa Rosa.

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

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### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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 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.*