

KITE TALES

a monthly newsletter from the
Redwood Region Ornithological Society

Volume 56 Number 7

March 2021



Harris's Sparrow 📷 Mario Balitbit



Next RROS General Meeting
March 10th // 7:00 pm



What's New on the RROS Website?

If you missed February's RROS meeting featuring Lisa Hug's "Identifying Female Ducks" presentation, watch it all now at our "Virtual Meetings" page!

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SAVE THE DATE

March Virtual Membership Meeting: Wednesday, March 10th 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: "Tierra de Aves Banding Program" with Manuel Grosselet



Manuel Grosselet, director of Tierra de Aves, in Oaxaca, Mexico, will inform us about his banding program in several locations

About the speaker: An ornithologist by training, Manuel has participated in numerous bird monitoring programs since 1988 in Europe, North Africa and North and Central America. Over the last two decades, he has monitored birds in the Santo Domingo Botanical Garden in the Mexican city of Oaxaca. He has worked as sub-director in the Federal Environmental Law Enforcement Agency and in the Division of Wildlife of SEMARNAT. He teaches courses on bird identification through sight and sound in France and Mexico, courses on use of mist-nets, bird banding, and molt in various parts of North America. He is author of a photographic guide to Oaxacan birds, *Aves de Oaxaca* (2003).

In January 2019 he led a group from RROS on a tour of Oaxaca and invited us to join his team for a banding session at the Santo Domingo garden in Oaxaca. RROS supports his banding efforts with a small annual donation. For more info on Tierra de Aves visit <http://www.tierradeaves.com/>

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

Every year RROS sponsors a multi-day, camping birding trip outside the county in May or June. The last two years have been to Modoc County and to the Sierras in Fresno County. These trips have been great fun and have produced great birds. We're looking for suggestions where to go this year. If you have a secret birding spot you think is really great, or some place you've been wanting to bird, let us know. Anything within a day's drive.

Send your suggestions to Malcolm Blanchard at mab@mabco.com or text him at (707) 480-2210.

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.

March 6, 2021, YAMS trip Cloverdale River Park

This Sonoma County Regional Park has a surprising diversity of bird species. It has a pleasant, flat walking trail and beautiful views of the Russian River. We will explore along the walking trail and river and see what we might find!

Bring layers of warm clothing, water, lunch, comfortable shoes, binoculars and a bird book.

Times and meeting places will be given after emailing Lisa Hug at lisahug@sonic.net for a reservation. COVID-19 protocols will be followed. **There is a \$7 per car entrance fee without an annual pass.**

March 13, 2021, Salmon Creek Road Evening Owling

Evening owling on Salmon Creek Road with Ruthie Rudesill. Probable Northern Pygmy-Owl, Western Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barn Owl and Saw-whet Owl. Possible Spotted Owl. There will be no calling or playing of Spotted Owl calls. Ruthie Rudesill will lead us. Ruthie has some of the best "bird ears" in the County and has great knowledge of owl calls. Owling is about hearing the birds, so please wear quiet clothing—nothing that makes noise as you move. Bring a mask.

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

March 27, 2021, King Ridge Road (near Cazadero)

Lisa Hug will lead us birding the remote northwestern corner of Sonoma County. Bring lunch/snacks, fluids, and folding chairs (for the lunch stop). No bathrooms once we start up the hill. Possible Sooty Grouse.

For more information contact Malcolm Blanchard (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.

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



Bring Lunch



Bring Water



Restrooms Not Available



Restrooms Available



Parking Fee

YAMS Field Trip Report – Bodega Bay, February 6, 2021

On February 6th, the RROS Youth Group, the Young Ancient Murrelets (or YAMS), birded together at Bodega Bay. Youth participants were Bea Pezzolo, Clayton Rucker, Aubrey Phipps, and Johnny Urbanski. Quite a few parents also participated.

We started out at Port o Bodega. We had a nice variety of ducks, loons, and grebes. We spent some time studying eared and horned grebes and admiring a few **Common Goldeneyes**.

We then drive over to Doran Beach. The tides were perfect for shorebirding and the weather was perfect. One of our first birds seen was the **Pacific Golden Plover** found earlier in the week by Ron Story. There was a wonderful assortment of shorebirds including many **Snowy Plovers** on the harbor side to feed on the invertebrates that were beginning to be exposed by the falling tide.

One magical moment on the mudflats was when a mysterious masked birder appeared next to Tony Pezzolo told him that there was a **Bonaparte's Gull** in he flock of gulls in front of us. Sure enough there was a Bonaparte's Gull hiding in the back of the gull flock. This was comical because Tony has been bugging

the last few field trips to find him a Bonaparte's Gull. He really, really wanted to see a Bonaparte's Gull for a long time.

When we drove to the end of the spit, the park had become so crowded that it was challenging to find enough parking spaces for the group. In fact I parked on some iceplant and we briefly looked out over the jetty and ocean. I arrived back at my car just as the Ranger had his pen to his ticket tablet. Phew! That was a close one!

We then drove around to Bodega Head. The **Pelagic and Brandt's Cormorants** were all dressed up in their breeding plumage. And of course, the **Black Oystercatchers** were showing off.

We ended the trip at Campbell Cove. A **Peregrine Falcon** flew over us just as we were finishing our bird list for the day!

If you know a birder (or are a birder) between the ages of 10 and 18 and would like to join our birding youth group the Young Ancient Murrelets (YAMS) contact Lisa Hug at Lisahug@sonic.net.



PISHING with PARMETER

MONKEY ISLAND (near Leticia, Colombia) : JULY 15, 1975

On the morning of 15 July we birded in the rainforest near Leticia. I added several species to my life list: **Spot-**

breasted Woodpecker, Tui Parakeet, Mouse-colored Tyrannulet, Spotted Tody-Flycatcher, Yellow-tufted Woodpecker, White-vented Euphonia, Glittering-throated Emerald (a hummingbird), Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet, and Turquoise Tanager.

Dr. Van Remsen, our leader, who had spent considerable time at Leticia while he worked on his doctoral thesis, told us he had never gone birding at Leticia without seeing at least one or two life birds. He had prepared a list of possible species to be seen here, which came to over 700 birds. It is something of an understatement to say that the Amazon is rich in bird life.

We continued birding until lunchtime, adding **Ochre-bellied Flycatcher, Black-bellied Cuckoo, Plain-**

brown Woodcreeper, Paradise Jacamar, Magpie Tanager, Black-spotted Barbet, Streaked Flycatcher, Crowned Slaty Flycatcher, Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet, and Red-stained Woodpecker.

During the morning I saw 19 lifers. We had lunch at the motel where we were staying. After lunch we loaded into a motor boat and headed upstream on the Amazon to Monkey Island, arriving after a trip of 45 minutes. This was a permanent island in the river, with very basic housing facilities.

That afternoon we birded on the island, adding several species to the trip list: **Yellow-billed Tern, Plumbeous Kite, Short-tailed Parrot, Troupial (an oriole), Red-capped Cardinal, Horned Screamer, Drab Water-Tyrant (what a name!), Brown-chested Martin, Red-belled Macaw, White-necked Heron, Oriole Blackbird, and Greater Ani** – all new for me. We ended the day with dinner, sleeping on the island. This was to be our base for birding over the next few days.

OBSERVATIONS

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

Species	Date(s)	Location	Cty	#	Observer(s)
Tundra Swan	02/15-20/21	Santa Rosa Crk X Guerneville Rd	SON	7	ScC, LiH, Ro&AnO, StP, RoS, MalB, JeV, BrW, DeS, ZeS, EuH, DaB, DoS, MaW, JoS, DoK, DoP, CoH, TiE, MiR, MaG, ScS photos
Eurasian Wigeon	01/23/21- 02/15/21	Doran Regional Park	SON	2m	JuB, TGT, ScC, MarB, BrW, JoS, LiH, DaT, RonS, JaL, ScS photos
Eurasian Wigeon	01/23-30/21	Santa Rosa Crk Trail Delta Pond	SON	2m	BrW, DoK photo
Redhead	01/26/21- 02/19/21	Spring Lake Regional Park	SON	1f	JeV, LiH, EuH, PeD, RonO, Mal&BeB, PeD, LiF photos
White-winged Scoter	01/23/21	Bodega Head State Park	SON	1f	AIH
Black Scoter	01/24/21	Goat Rock Road	SON	1m	LiH, AIW photo
Long-tailed Duck	01/21/21- 02/04/21	Bodega Bay-Porto Bodega	SON	2	LiH, JeV, AIH, ScC, LiH, MarB, JoS photos
Barrow's Goldeneye	01/23/21- 02/13/21	Port Sonoma	SON	3m	LiH, AIW, MalB, DoK
Vaux's Swift	02/13/21	Sebastopol-Burnside Road yard	SON	1	WhM photos
Common Gallinule X American Coot	02/05-19/21	Howarth Park—Lake Raphine	SON	1	JoB, MarB, LiH, RonS, CoT, DeS, RAR, StP photos
Pacific Golden-Plover	02/04-05/21	Doran Regional Park	SON	1	RonS, AnJ, DoK, LiH, BrR, RoO photos
Black-legged Kittiwake	02/12/21	Doran Regional Park	SON	1	RiL photo
Glaucous Gull	01/25-26/21	Ellis Creek Recycling Ponds- Shollenberger Park wetlands	SON	1	MaL, ScC
Glaucous Gull	01/29/21- 02/20/21	Russian River mouth	SON	1	EuH, ScC, AdH, AIH photo
Glaucous Gull	02/13/21	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	NoA, DaE photos
Northern Saw-whet Owl	02/19/21	Salmon Crk Rd x Fitzpatrick Rd	SON	2	JoS heard only
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	01/23/21	550 Salmon Creek Road	SON	1f	AIH photos
Red-naped Sapsucker	01/27/21	550 Salmon Creek Road	SON	1m	ScC photos
Hammond's Flycatcher	01/21/21- 02/17/21	Tolay Regional Park	SON	1	DeS, BaK, MaG, RAR, DoK, MalB, MJY, PeA, ZeS, WeB, KiS, BoH, IBM, DaSe, LauN, RonS, MeK, DaT, GaT, ScS, LarN, ReC, JoS, MaW, GaP, TiE, Ch&TeW, Ra&AdR, MiH, DeF photos RROS field trip
Mountain Bluebird	01/23/21- 02/17/21	Tolay Regional Park	SON	3	RAR, MalB, DoK, AIH, MJY, PeA, KiS, BoH, IBM, LauN, BiC, LarN, MiH photos RROS field trip
Red Crossbill	02/01/21	Upper Coleman Valley Road	SON	16	ScC
Red Crossbill	02/14/21	Alexandria Dr. Healdsburg yard	SON	1	ViD
Evening Grosbeak	01/21/21	Crane Creek Regional Park	SON	1	CoH photo
Grasshopper Sparrow	02/05/21	Taylor Mountain Regional Pk	SON	1	DaSh

Harris's Sparrow	02/18-20/21	Freestone-next to Red Barn	SON	2m	LiH, JeV, KiH, JoS, NiB, TiE, RoS, MaLB, Eu&NaH, AaM, BrD, ReC, LuC, FrO, CoM, DaB, Co&CoC, JiC Sc&LiT, ChN, DaH, DaL, DeS, AIW, DoK, DaT, EvV, AdH, AIH, RAR photos
Swamp Sparrow	01/21/21-02/16/21	Ellis Creek Recycling Ponds	SON	2	MaL, SyS, CaP, BaK, MaG, RonS, EIC, EIL, AIH, IBM, ZeS, WeB, KeD, DoK, LiF, DeS, ChN, MiL, ReC, KaM, JiC, ReM, AnL, ScC, GoB, Mi&SuG, RAR, RobS, AIW, MarB, Mi&ReA, Ch&TeW photos
Tricolored Blackbird	01/31/21	Chanslor Ranch	SON	1	JoS



OBSERVERS FOR THIS PERIOD

Michael & Rebecca • Abrams • Peggy Albright • Will Anderson • Noah Arthur • Joan Bacci • Mario Balitbit • Nicole Barden • David Barry • Gordon Beebe • Wendy Beers • Malcolm Blanchard • Malcolm & Beatrice Blanchard • Junco Bullick • Scott Carey • Collin & Conner Cochrane • Reef Comer • Bill Cone • Lucas Corneliusen • Elizabeth Crouthamel • Jim Crumpler • Kelly DeForest • Peter Dellavalle • Brock Dolman • Vikki DuRee • Daniel Edelstein • Tiffany Erickson • Delores Fino • Linda Fraley • Mike & Sue Gragg • Mary Grishaver • Connie Haile • Bob Hasenick • Alex Henry • Michael Hingerty • Adrian Hinkle • David Hohmann • Kirk Hopkin • Lisa Hug • Eugene Hunn • Eugene & Nancy Hunn • Andrew Johnson • Barbara Kendrick • Melani King • Donald Kirker • Matt Lau • Rick LeBaudour • David Leland • Elizabeth Lewis • Ann Linder • Jasen Liu • Miya Lucas • Aaron Maizlish • Rebecca Matsubara • Colin Meusel • Karen Meredith • Iza Bruen-Morningstar • Whitney Mortimer • Christian Naventi • Larry Nigro • Laura Nixon • Rob O'Donnell • Rob & Anne O'Donnell • Frances Oliver • Carla Parkinson • Steve Pearce • Donald Pendleton • Garrett Pierce • Rajan & Adi Rao • Mike Rochford • Ruth Ann Rudesill • Brandy Rucker • David Sexton • Doug Shaw • Deb Sheppard • David Shuford • Sylvie Silverstein • Zeke Smith • Josh Snead • Scott Sorby • Robert Stevenson • Ron Storey • Kirk Swenson • Colin Talcroft • Gabriel Tarantino • Scott & Linda Terrill • David Tomb • Torrey Gage-Tomlinson • Eva Valfer • Jeff Valfer • Brian Webb • Alan Wight • Matthew Willcox • Chris & Teri Wills • Mary Jo Yung



Black-legged Kittiwake // Doran Beach, Bodega Bay // 2.12.2012 📷 Rick LeBaudour

PHOTO GALLERY





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

President: Anne O'Donnell.....auodonnell@gmail.com // 707-312-2376
 Vice President: Eugene Hunnenhunn323@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. Hofmannnnamfoh@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.