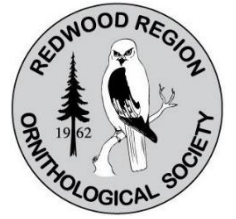
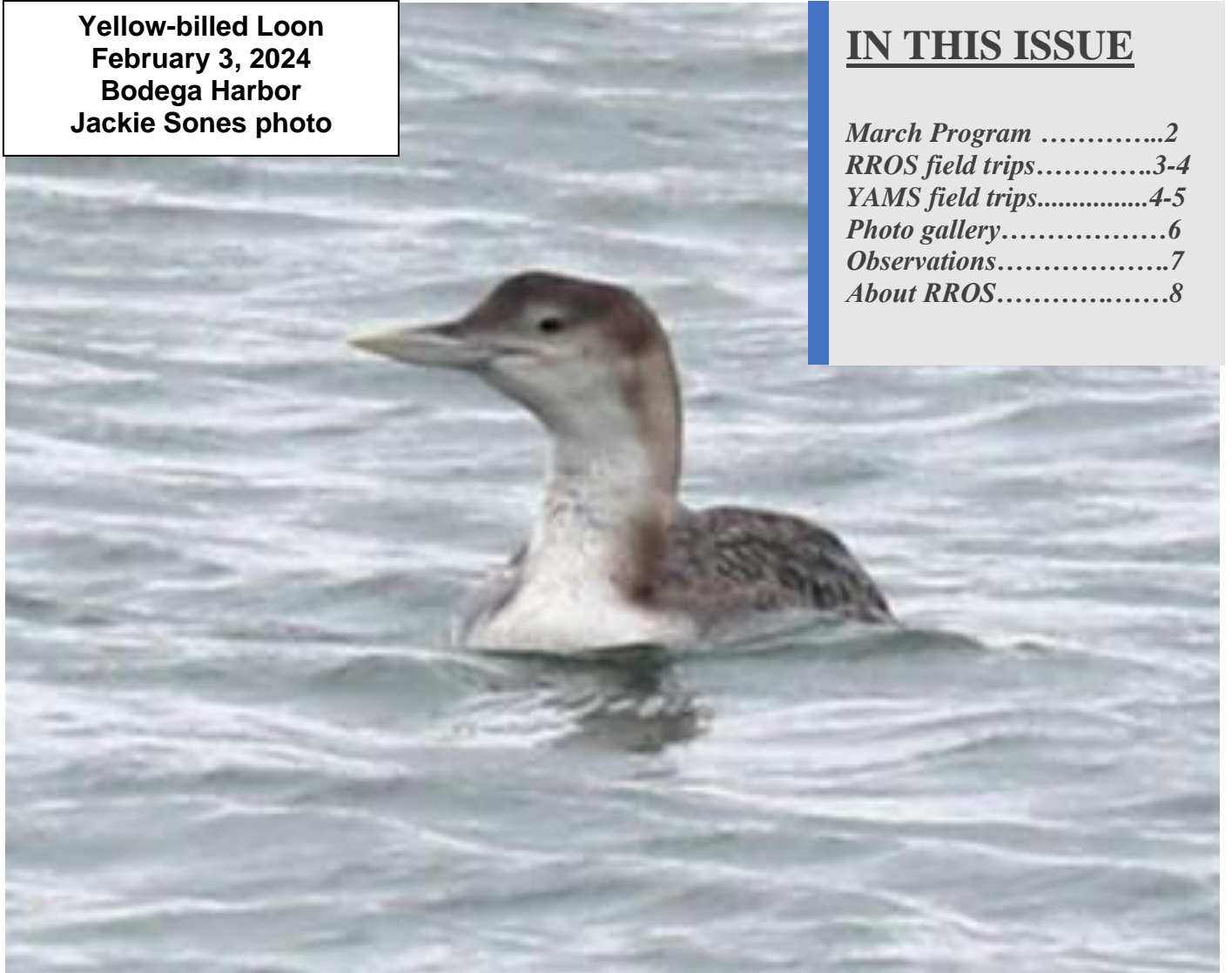


KITE TALES



A monthly newsletter from the Redwood Region Ornithological Society

**Yellow-billed Loon
February 3, 2024
Bodega Harbor
Jackie Sones photo**



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What's New on the RROS Website?

The most current info on meetings, field trips, presentations, and more can be found at www.RROS.org.

If you missed a previous program, video recordings are available on our website at www.RROS.org/virtualmeeting.

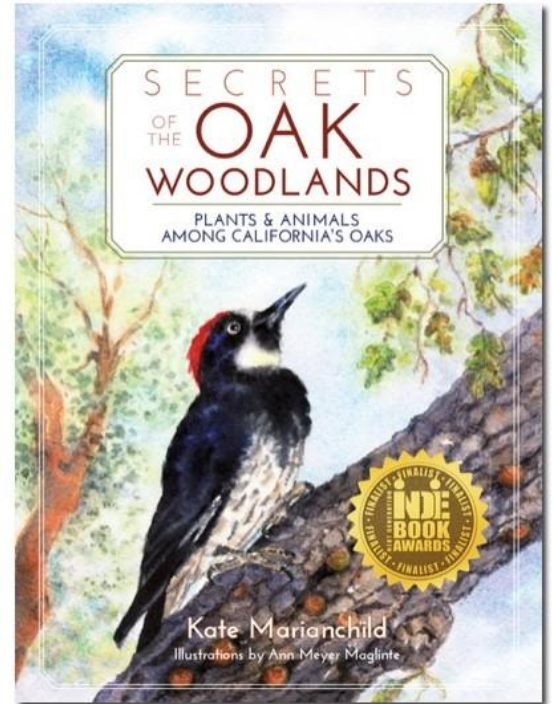
What's On The Program?

Taking a Deep Dip: The Lives of North America's Only Truly Aquatic Songbirds

During the pandemic, Kate Marianchild, author of the best-selling book *Secrets of the Oak Woodlands: Plants and Animals among California's Oaks*, spent three consecutive breeding seasons observing, photographing, and videoing American Dippers at two different wild nest sites on the East Fork of the Russian River. During this in-person presentation, Kate will discuss the life history of these extraordinary songbirds while briefly touching on their sister species around the world. She will play videos of dippers going about their lives in spring and summer: singing; displaying; building nests; feeding babies; flashing eyelids; dipping; foraging; and grooming. She will also include photos and videos of other riparian species, including a brief video of an American mink who shares a stretch of river with the two dipper families.

Bio

Kate Marianchild is a naturalist, nature guide, and author of *Secrets of the Oak Woodlands: Plants and Animals among California's Oaks* (Heyday, 2014). She lives in a yurt near Ukiah where she is surrounded by birds and other wildlife and six species of oak. When she is not giving talks, guiding walks, or observing nature, she swims, sings, and advocates for the preservation of native plants and insects. To enjoy illustrations and excerpts from her book and/or purchase a signed copy of her book, go to katemarianchild.com.



In Case You Missed It

Or just click on <https://youtube/FAew-4z09v0> for the YouTube recording of the RROS presentation last month.



A note from your Membership Chair, Nancy Hunn

Welcome New Member

Rafael "Sam" Samay

If you have not yet returned your membership renewal, please send it in ASAP.
\$25 for Individuals, \$30 for families, \$5 for students.



Hudeman Slough Field Trip by Malcolm Blanchard

On Saturday, February 10, I led about twenty birders on a trip around Hudeman Slough, south of the town of Sonoma, amidst the Napa-Sonoma Wetlands. It was a beautiful clear day with comfortable temperatures. It hadn't rained for a few days, so, with that, and some recent road improvements, the walking was mud-free.

Upon surmounting the rim of the first holding pond, we were able to view the wetlands to the southwest. While not a large number of individual birds were seen, a reasonable number of species were identified, including Northern Shovelers, Cinnamon Teal, Northern Pintail, American Wigeon, and Green-winged Teal.

We then set off to the second holding pond. On the way Craig Roth spotted a Loggerhead Shrike uncharacteristically flying into and out of an oak tree. As we all watched, a second Shrike was seen nearby. Our conclusion was some nest-building was underway, or at least nest-site scouting. Speaking of nest-building, we passed a Downy Woodpecker along the way expanding a cavity in a utility pole. Alas, no potential mate in sight yet. On the holding pond there were Common Merganser, Bufflehead, and Double-crested Cormorants.

Down onto the fields below the ponds we saw Canvasbacks and Ring-necked Ducks, along with the regular Great Horned Owl roosting in the bare Willow at the tee junction. Just after making the turn at the junction, a bird caught my eye flying in the vineyard to the south. I was able to get it in my scope and was surprised to see a Kingbird with its grey head and lemon-yellow belly. I hastily called Peter Colasanti to have a look. He was of the opinion it was a Tropical Kingbird (which would be more likely this time of year). Unfortunately, the bird flew and we were not able to re-find it.

A bit further on a small flock of Horned Larks flew by and landed on the road giving some nice views. All in all we saw about 60 species on a very pleasant outing.

RRS FIELD TRIPS, UPCOMING

*We do not require field-trip attendees to make reservations, unless a specific trip needs to be limited due to physical restraints. However, you are encouraged to RSVP for all trips. In return, you will receive a reminder of the trip and automatically be shared on the group eBird list, unless you opt out. As always, carpooling is encouraged. For more information or to RSVP, contact **Garrett Pierce (415) 260-7406**.*

Sunday, March 10, 2024, Thornton Island and Cosumnes River Preserve.

Gene Hunn leading. Late winter is prime time to visit some of the most productive waterfowl concentrations in the Central Valley. Our prime targets for this trip are Staten Island and the nearby Cosumnes River Preserve (www.cosumnes.org). En route we will survey farm fields off Hwy 12 between Fairfield and Rio Vista on the Flannery-Robinson Rd. loop for wintering raptors (possible Burrowing Owl, Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon) and possible Mountain Plovers. Staten Island hosts large numbers of Sandhill Cranes, Tundra Swans, Snow Geese, and most of the world's Aleutian Cackling Geese. Cosumnes has a nice variety of ducks, plus Greater White-fronted and other geese. Meet for carpooling at the park-and-ride lot at the junction of Hwys. 116 and 121 at 7:30 AM (PACIFIC DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME). Bring a lunch. For more information or to RSVP contact Garrett Pierce – garrettallenpierce@gmail.com or (415) 260-7406.

April 13, 2024, 8:00AM-1:00PM, Pine Flat Road, Scott Carey

Scott Carey 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. Meet at 8:00AM at the bottom of Pine Flat Road, near the intersection with Red Winery Road (38.6759087, -122.8076800). Bring lunch, fluids, layered clothing. Please note there are no bathrooms. This is a narrow winding road, watch for bicyclists. You are encouraged to carpool since the fewer cars on this road the better. To RSVP contact Garrett Pierce – garrettallenpierce@gmail.com or (415) 260-7406.

April 27, 2024, 8:00AM-1:00PM King Ridge Road, near Cazadero, Josh Snead

Josh Snead will lead us around this remote northwestern corner of Sonoma County. *In order to minimize the number of cars on this narrow road, the trip is limited to 12 people. You must RSVP. First-come, first served, with preference given to RROS members.* Meet at 8:00AM in the parking lot near the bakery in Duncans Mills (38.4530148, -123.0532010). Bring lunch/snacks, fluids, and folding chairs (for the lunch stop). No bathrooms once we start up the hill. Possible Sooty Grouse. To RSVP contact Garrett Pierce – garrettallenpierce@gmail.com or (415) 260-7406.

YAMS FIELD TRIPS WINTER/SPRING 2024

Sunday March 17 - Giacomini Wetlands 8am to 1pm

Meet at the Lakeville Park and Ride at the west side of Rte. 101 at Rte. 116 at 8:00am., or meet at the corner of C and Third Street in Point Reyes Station at 8:30. We will carpool to Point Reyes Station and plan to arrive at the wetlands around 8:30am. This is a restored tidal marsh at the mouth of Lagunitas Creek which historically had been a cattle grazing pasture. We may find a variety of waterbirds and landbirds as we explore this interesting habitat. We will have a picnic lunch at the Bear Valley Visitor Center. We plan to be at the park and Ride around 1:00pm. Bring binoculars, field guide and/or app, lunch, water, snacks and of course layered clothing.

Saturday May 18 – Riverfront Regional Park (7821 Eastside Rd, Healdsburg) 8:30am to 12:30pm

Meet in the parking lot at Riverfront Regional Park We will hike around the two lakes and enjoy the spring migrants that this rich forest habitat provides for. Bring binoculars, field guide and/or app, lunch, water, snacks and of course layered clothing.

YAMS Marin County Breeding Bird Atlas block surveys:

Sunday April 14 - Outer Point of Point Reyes National Seashore 7:30am to 1:00pm

Meet at the Lakeville Park and Ride at the west side of Rte. 101 at Rte. 116 at 7:30am. We will travel together to explore our block on Outer Point Reyes. Liz is a member of the steering committee for this important research project and she will be sharing the project protocols and we will see what our block holds for us in bird diversity. It will be great to be part of this important research project for Marin County! Bring binoculars, field guide and/or app, lunch, water, snacks and of course layered clothing.

Sunday, May 5 - Outer Point of Point Reyes National Seashore 7:30am to 1:00pm

Meet at the Lakeville Park and Ride at the west side of Rte. 101 at Rte. 116 at 7:30am. We will travel together to our Breeding Bird Atlas Block and collect real data for the project! Don't forget your data sheets! Bring binoculars, field guide and/or app, lunch, water, snacks and of course layered clothing.

Sunday June 2 - Outer Point of Point Reyes National Seashore 7:30am to 1:00pm

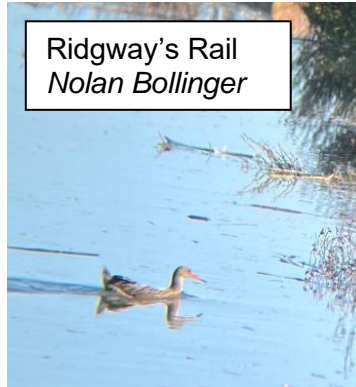
Meet at the Lakeville Park and Ride at the west side of Rte. 101 at Rte. 116 at 7:30am. We will travel together to our Breeding Bird Atlas Block and collect real data for the project! Don't forget your data sheets! Bring binoculars, field guide and/or app, lunch, water, snacks and of course layered clothing.

YAMs Arrowhead Marsh Trip

YAMs members Nolan and Aubrey as well as Lisa and Liz visited Arrowhead Marsh in February. It was during the King Tides and several rarities had been spotted. We walked the trail beside the wetlands. There were great views of a **Horned Grebe**, and we saw several other duck species including **Ruddy**, **Bufflehead**, and **Greater Scaups**. In the grassy park, a **Snow Goose** rested among some **Canada Geese** and a **Brant**.

Ridgway's Rail
Nolan Bollinger

The water was slowly rising when we joined a birder intently watching the reeds before a narrow channel of water. He had a Ridgway's Rail in sight, and we all got fantastic views of its orange bill and orange cheeks. The rail was flooded out of the reeds, and our timing was incredible as we watched several more rails frantically swim across the channel into the adjacent bushes.



Ridgway's Rail
Nolan Bollinger



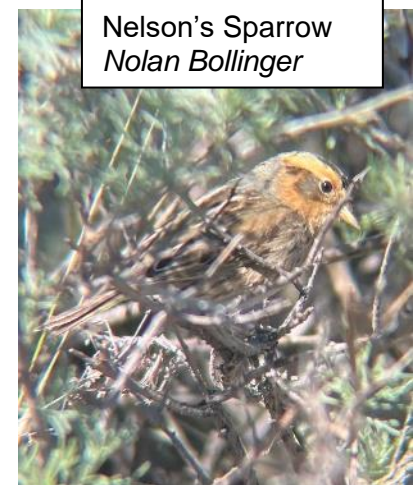
Ridgway's Rail
Aubrey Parnay



Ridgway's Rail
Nolan Bollinger

The bird we'd all been hoping to see was the **Nelson's Sparrow**. YAMs spent many long minutes poking around the bushes hoping to catch a view. With no luck yet, we ate our lunch when suddenly a birder waved us over. And there the **Nelson's** was, peeking out from a coyote bush. Several birders were already there, snapping shots and exclaiming over it. Everyone got amazing views of this photogenic sparrow who must have been astonished to see all the humans peering at it.

As we headed back to the car, the group decided to check out Lake Merritt for a Tufted Duck sighting. Although we didn't see this one, we did find a stunning male **Hooded Merganser**. It was fun for all of us to go on a short road trip together and very rewarding as well.



Nelson's Sparrow
Nolan Bollinger

January Bodega Bay Report

In late January, we visited the prime birding spots around Bodega Bay. Highlights included an exciting viewing of a **White-winged Scoter** which we identified from Westside Regional Park. We saw the Scoter preening and it gave us glimpses of the white secondaries. Also in Bodega Harbor was a **Red-throated Loon** which, like the Scoter, dove often making it hard to re-find. At the entrance to Doran Regional Park, a **Eurasian Widgeon** swam among the other **American Widgeons**! YAMs had been trying to find one for a while, so this was a satisfactory moment. We went to find the **Nashville Warbler** by Diekman's Store. Sure enough, it popped out from the vegetation below, along with an **Orange-crowned Warbler**. This topped off our Winter trip to Bodega! Aubrey, Clayton, Bea, Tiger Lily, and Emma all saw lifers. All in all, we saw 63 species.

-Aubrey Parnay, YAMs Field Columnist



Black-crowned Night-Heron
Nolan Bollinger

*If you are interested in birding and between the ages of 8-18, please contact Lisa Hug (lisahug@sonic.net)

PHOTO GALLERY: SOME RECENT HIGHLIGHTS



Dipper, Warm Springs Dam, February 8, 2024, Betsy Crouthamel photo



Palm Warbler, Valley Ford wetland, January 29, 2024, Betsy Crouthamel photo



Hammond's Flycatcher, Spring Lake Regional Park, February 8, 2024, Scott Morriscal photo



Golden Eagle with cackler, Old Adobe Road pond, January 2024, Soctt Morriscal photo



Blackburnian Warbler, Ragle Ranch Regional Park, January 12, 2024, Betsy Crouthamel photo

B

Observations January 21, 2024 to February 20, 2024, compiled by DAVID A. HOFMANN

Species	Date/s	Location	Cnty	#	Observer/s
Snow Goose	01/21/24	Rainsville Rd, Wiggins Creek	SON	1	AIW photo
Snow Goose	01/23/24	Ellis Creek WRF	SON	1	CiR photo
Harlequin Duck	02/12/24	Bodega Bay	SON	1f	EuH, photo
Black Scoter	01/29- 02/09/24	Bodega Bay---Owl Canyon	SON	1f	LoK, ScC
Long-tailed Duck	01/30/24	Bodega Bay---Porto Bodega	SON	1	EIC, CoH photos
Yellow-billed Loon	02/01- 18/24	Bodega Bay---Smith Brothers Road--Tides Wharf	SON	1	ReL, CoM, ToB, ReM, JoS, JaS, mob photos
Common Black X Red-shouldered Hawk hybrid	12/22/23- 02/18/24	Santa Rosa Creek Trail west of Willowside Road	SON	1f	BrW, StP, ChR photo
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	01/22- 02/10/24	Oakwild Lane	SON	1m	PeC,, EIC, JoC, SeC, MoF, mob photos
Red-naped Sapsucker	01/23- 02/20/24	Spring Lake Regional Park	SON	1	JeV, WeD. ScC, mob photos
Hammond's Flycatcher	02/03- 18/24	Spring Lake Regional Park	SON	1	EuH, GaP, TiE, MoF, mob
Tropical Kingbird	02/10/24	Hudeman Slough	SON	1	PeC
American Dipper	01/28- 02/12/24	Milt Brandt Visitor Center	SON	1	JeG, NiG, TiE. mob photos
Scaly-breasted Munia	01/23/24	Santa Rosa---545 4 th Street	SON	1	JiT photos
Scaly-breasted Munia	01/30- 02/13/24	Spring Lake Regional Park	SON	8	LaN, EIC, ScM photos
Swamp Sparrow	01/25/24	Laguna de Santa Rosa Trail	SON	1	JoS photo
Black-and-White Warbler	02/12/24	Willow Creek Road	SON	1	JoS photos
Nashville Warbler	01/22- 02/11/24	Bodega Bay---Diekman's Store	SON	1	LiH, CIR,EIL,BeP. JoS, MaG
American Redstart	01/25- 02/01/24	Spring Lake Regional Park	SON	1f	MoF, ScM, JeV, JoS, RuR, DoK photos
Palm Warbler	02/08- 10/24	Valley Ford Wetlands	SON	1	EIC, JiH photo
Summer Tanager	02/16- 19/24	Santa Rosa--Buena Vista Drive	SON	1	ViR photos
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	02/17/24	Laguna Road home	SON	1	GoB

Observer/s: Gordon Beebe, Matt Brady, Tony Briggs, Scott Carey, Michael Carozza, Peter Colasanti, Jolene Cortright, Sean Cortright, Elizabeth Crouthamel, Wendy Dandridge, Tiffany Erickson, Mookie Fudemberg, Jeffer Giang, Nicole Graham, Mary Grishaver, Connie Haile, Jim Holmes, Lisa Hug, Eugene Hunn, Logan Kahle, Don Kirker, Rebecca Lawton, Elizabeth Lewis, Carl Lundblad, Renee Masotti, Dan Maxwell, Colin Meusel, Scott Morrical, Larry Nigro, Beatrice Pezzolo, Steve Pierce, Vicki Rafferty, Christopher Reiger, Cindy Roach, Clayton Rucker, Ruth Rudesill, Josh Snead, Jackie Sones, Jim Thomason, David Tomb, Jeff Valfer, Alan Wight, Brian Webb, mob = many observers.

ABOUT RROS

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

Annual dues are \$25 per individual, \$30 per family, and \$5 per student.

Membership forms can be found at www.rros.org/join-rros

Dues can be sent to RROS Membership Chair, Nancy Hunn, 1504 Smokey Mtns. Dr., Petaluma, CA 94954

Visit us on the web at www.RROS.org

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 Website: Katharine Branstetter..... kathbran@well.com

Kite Tales deadline is the **20th of each month**, August through April.

Observations may be sent to David A. Hofmann at nnamfoh@comcast.net.

Send all other content to KT Editor Gene Hunn at enhunn323@comcast.net

