


KITE TALES

a monthly newsletter from the
Redwood Region Ornithological Society

Volume 56 Number 3

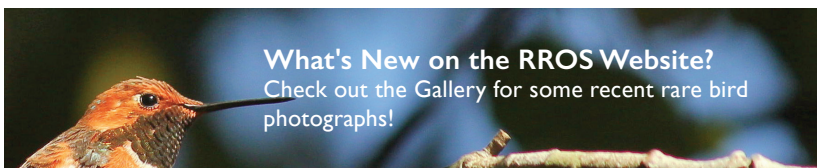
November 2020



Common Loon  Dennis Luz



Next RROS General Meeting
November 11th // 7:00 pm



What's New on the RROS Website?
Check out the Gallery for some recent rare bird
photographs!

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SAVE THE DATE

November Virtual Membership Meeting: Wednesday, November 11th 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: Wildscaping with Veronica Bowers



Our presenter for the November meeting will be Veronica Bowers, founder of "Native Songbird Care and Conservation" (NSCC), a non-profit to which RROS has contributed. Founded in 2004 and located in Sebastopol, NSCC is dedicated to the conservation of native songbirds through rehabilitation, release back to the wild, and public education.

Veronica will talk about "wildscaping" or how to attract birds to your garden, as well as a little bit about her work with bird rescue. This will be a great opportunity to get a glimpse of how RROS's donation to NSCC has been put to work.

For more info about NSCC: <http://www.nativesongbirdcare.org>

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.

November 7, 2020, YAMS Field Trip: Las Gallinas Storage Ponds.

Both YAMS members and general RROS members are welcome on this field trip. However, due to Covid-19, I am limiting the number of participants to 12, and you must make a reservation to find the meeting spot and time. Priority will be given to YAMS members.

We will hike around the Las Gallinas Storage Ponds in hopes of seeing many species of waterfowl and other birds.

Please call Lisa at (707) 535-9370 to make reservations for this trip. Start and end time will be provided upon RSVP

November 14, 2020, San Pablo Bay shore sites

We'll bird the north shore of San Pablo Bay, south of Highway 37. Gene Hunn will lead us checking out the large concentrations of raptors, shorebirds and other waterfowl. We will check the abandoned docks for Ridgway's Rail and the mouth of the Petaluma River for shorebirds and waterfowl before heading east to Reclamation Road, the Tubbs Island trail near the mouth of Tolay Creek, and the wetlands at the Skaggs Island spur off Highway 37. Finish by 1:00PM.

Expect a fair bit of walking. Bring your lunch and a face mask. Restrooms available at Reclamation Road. Carpooling is not required, and not prohibited- your discretion.

For more information contact Malcolm Blanchard (707) 480-2210. Start and end time will be provided upon RSVP

November 28, 2020, Hudeman Slough

Hudeman Slough, south of the town of Sonoma, near Skaggs Island, is a rich birding area hosting many water fowl once the fall rains commence. Even before then, rare birds can show up on the holding ponds. Join us for a survey of the area led by Rob O'Donnell. Owls, shrikes, and raptors are expected. No bathrooms. Bring a face mask and lunch.

For more information contact Rob O'Donnell (707) 694-9776. Start and end time will be provided upon RSVP

 : Bring Lunch

 : Bring Water

 : Restrooms Available

 : Parking Fee



It is with sadness to report that RROS member, Bill Bevens, passed away in October. For those of us who had the good fortune to know Bill, we'll miss his amiable smile and understated sense of humor.

Bill was a volunteer and former officer of the Bird Rescue Center of Sonoma County. He spent many days jumping in his car to pick up an injured bird and bring it to the BRC. Bill was also quietly competitive as he and several friends competed each year to lead in the count of birds found in Sonoma County.

As much as Bill loved birds, even more so, he was a loving husband and best friend of his wife, Rita.

FIELD TRIP REPORT

Willow Creek Road : October 24th 2020

On Saturday, October 24, 12 birders gathered at Willow Creek Road off of Highway 1 for a morning of birding. The chilly, overcast day began with a bevy of blackbirds "chuk"-ing from the overhead wires.

The tranquil Russian River held little other than a couple Common Mergansers. But, a distant Bald Eagle appeared briefly, making for an auspicious start. A flooded field adjacent to the creek produced a number of species. Many Mallards, an American Wigeon, a Northern Shoveler, and three Northern Pintails dabbled with some American Coots while Pied-billed Grebes duetted in the distance. Along the closed road to Willow Creek Campground, Lincoln's Sparrows made brief appearances and a dark Merlin zipped right over our heads. At the campground entrance, a bold White-throated Sparrow foraged openly with a solo California Towhee. Heading back to the main road, two adult Bald Eagles gave us satisfying looks as they cruised past close by - fun!

We gathered the vehicles and drove to the second bridge, where we birded by foot. Here, the biggest surprise of the day awaited us. A large mixed flock of Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Townsend's Warblers, and Ruby-crowned Kinglets flitted to and fro across the road. As we craned our eyes toward the alder-tops, an obscured bird with a bright white belly and contrasting black throat and flanks grabbed our attention.

As the group looked curiously on, the bird revealed its beautiful blue head, back and wings, complete with a white wing-spot - wow, a BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER!!!

All birders viewed this gorgeous vagrant before it moved on - what a wonderful treat!

To wrap up the day, the group enjoyed a number of birds along the ridgeline - a Sharp-shinned Hawk scanned the coyote brush for an easy picking, several Red-tailed Hawks soared, Turkey Vultures streamed by, and two pairs of Common Ravens sky-danced. What a fantastic morning of birding!

All the birds recorded can be seen at RROS's eBird account here: <https://www.rros.org/ebird>



- Teresa & Miles Tuffli, Field Trip Leaders

YAMS* 2020 RICH STALLCUP POINT BLUE BIRD-A-THON October 10th, 2020 - by Lisa Hug

This year has been challenging for all of us on many levels. Covid-19 was forcing us to be creative about how we participate in social events. And, the Bird-a-thon is a social event, and I have always made it a priority to emphasize teamwork on the YAMS bird-a-thon days. In the spirit of teamwork, I invited the YAMS to a Zoom meeting a few days before. We decided on a small, socially-distanced Marin team and another one in Sonoma. In the spirit of teamwork, we would have another ZOOM meeting in the evening of the Bird-a-thon and add up our totals and see how many birds we could see cumulatively. **We were all set. We had a plan...**

To read the full story, and get details on the mind-blowing species count, click the following link :

[Point Blue Conservation - YAMS 2020 Bird-a-thon](#)

or type "YAMS 2020 Bird-a-thon" into your search engine

Here is the breakdown of the subteams that participated:

Sonoma County:

Lisa Hug and Bea Pezzolo
Clayton and Brandy Rucker
The 2 teams combined in the afternoon.

Marin County:

Car 1: Joseph Zeno, Jason Zeno (adult) and John King
Car 2: Mark Schulist and Mike Schulist (adult)
Car 3: Connor Cochraine, Collin Cochraine (adult) and Lucas Corneliussen

Car 1 covered several areas in West Marin, including Pine Gulch Creek
Car 2 covered Muir Beach and met up with the others at Pine Gulch Creek

Car 3 covered several areas in West Marin, including Pine Gulch Creek, then moved on to Hamilton Wetlands in East Marin

San Mateo County:

Lucas Stephenson, Mark Stephenson (adult) and Brian Browne - pelagic trip off half Moon Bay and some miscellaneous birding afterwards.

OBSERVATIONS

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

Species	Date(s)	Location	Cty	#	Observer(s)
Eurasian Wigeon	10/02/20	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	1m	ScC
Redhead	10/02/20	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	4	ScC
Common Poorwill	10/02/20	Sebastopol-Burnside Road	SON	1	WhM
Broad-billed Hummingbird	10/02-04/20	Sea Ranch-Wildmoor Reach	SON	1m	Jo&MaB, KaW photos
Ridgeway's Rail	10/06/20	Hudeman Slough	SON	1	MaG heard only
Pectoral Sandpiper	10/06/20	Doran Regional Park	SON	1	MarB
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	10/19/20	Valley Ford Wetlands	SON	1	MarB photos
South Polar Skua	09/27/20	Pelagic trip to Cordell Bank	SON	3	MarB, mob photo
Pomarine Jaeger	09/27/20	Pelagic trip to Cordell Bank	SON	5	MarB, ScC, mob
Parasitic Jaeger	09/27/20	Pelagic trip to Cordell Bank	SON	2	AIM, ChD, LuC, mob
Common Tern	09/27/20	Porto Bodega	SON	1	ScC, EuH, LuC
Black Storm-Petrel	09/27/20	Pelagic trip to Cordell Bank	SON	1	MarB, mob photo
Pink-footed Shearwater	10/15/20	Bodega Head State Park	SON	1	MarB
Flesh-footed Shearwater	09/27/20	Pelagic trip to Cordell Bank	SON	2	LuC, mob photo
Short-tailed Shearwater	09/27/20	Pelagic trip to Cordell Bank	SON	1	MaB, LuC, mob photo
Red-footed Booby	09/27/20	Pelagic trip to Cordell Bank	SON/ MAR	1	BrO, MarB, MalB, Ev&JuC, Ma&LuS, AIM, AnD, EuH, LiH, DaS, ChD, ScC, LuC, NaT, mob photos
Least Bittern	10/12/20	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	1	DaE
White-faced Ibis	10/06/20	Hudeman Slough	SON	1	MaG photo
White-faced Ibis	10/08/20	Valley Ford Wetlands	SON	2	TeM
Black Vulture	10/03/20	Sonoma-Anthony Court	SON	1	AnS video
Broad-winged Hawk	09/30/20	Jenner Headlands Overlook	SON	1	Te&MiT, LiH
Broad-winged Hawk	10/04/20	Islands in the Sky Vista Loop	SON	1	Te&MiT
Broad-winged Hawk	10/09/20	Jenner Headlands Overlook	SON	1	DaB
Swainson's Hawk	10/01/20	San Pablo Bay NWR	SON	1	MarB
Barred Owl	09/20/20	Occidental Bohemian Hwy	SON	1	NiB, heard only
Barred Owl	10/18/20	Gravenstein Hwy-Hwy 116	SON	2	JoS heard only
Short-eared Owl	10/09/20	Bodega Head State Park	SON	1	DaB
Red-naped Sapsucker	10/10/20	Ragle Ranch Regional Park	SON	1	BrR
Great Crested Flycatcher	10/01/20	Sea Ranch-Green Cove Dr	SON	1	KeB photos
Tropical Kingbird	09/23-24/20	Campbell Cove State Beach	SON	1	BoB, DAH, LiH, BriO, MalB photos
Tropical Kingbird	10/06-07/20	Campbell Cove State Beach	SON	1	Na&EuH, MarB, KeG, ReC
Lawrence's Goldfinch	09/29- 10/02/20	Fountain Grove Parkway	SON	1	DaS photo
Clay-colored Sparrow	10/02/20	Bodega Dunes Camp-ground	SON	1	JoS
Clay-colored Sparrow	10/02/20	Coleman Valley Road-upper	SON	1	ScC
Clay-colored Sparrow	10/07/20	Bodega Head State Park	SON	1	ZaM

Clay-colored Sparrow	10/07-11/20	Owl Canyon	SON	2	KeG, MarB, ZaM, ReC, KeG, RiD, KaEM, Mal&BeB, KaM, CoM, EuH, RiL, DAH, LiH, DaN, WeD, DeF, JeV, ZaM, ThB, RoS, BriO, RiC, DoK, AIW, RoM, KeG, DaLe, ToS, MaS, ScC, DaLu. EmS photos
Brewer's Sparrow	09/27/20	Campbell Cove State Beach	SON	1	AdB photos
Green-tailed Towhee	09/27/20	Timber Hill Road	SON	1	JeK
Green-tailed Towhee	10/04/20	2191 Laguna Rd	SON	1	GoB photos
Green-tailed Towhee	10/09-12/20	Owl Canyon	SON	1	Mal&BeB, DaN, LiH, RiL, DAH, EuH, WeD, DeF, JeV, MaG, ZaM, ThB, RoS, BriO, RiC, DoK, AIW, RoM, KeG, MarB, DaLe, PeC, ScC, KaM, KaEM, JoS, DaE, EmS photos
Northern Waterthrush	10/15-16/20	Diekmann's Store	SON	1	MarB, KaEM photos
Tennessee Warbler	09/30/20	Campbell Cove State Beach	SON	1	Ma&LuS
Tennessee Warbler	10/15-17/20	Diekmann's Store	SON	1	MarB, JoS, EuH photos
MacGillivray's Warbler	09/21/20	Bodega Marine Lab housing	SON	1	MarB, LiH
MacGillivray's Warbler	09/30/20	Campbell Cove State Beach	SON	1	Ma&LuS
MacGillivray's Warbler	10/07/20	Spring Lake Regional Park	SON	1	JeV
MacGillivray's Warbler	10/08/20	Owl Canyon	SON	1	KeG
American Redstart	10/08/20	Gualala Regionall Park CG	SON	1	Te&MiT photos
American Redstart	10/08-9/20	Campbell Cove State Beach	SON	1	LiH, MalB, CoM EuH, photos
Blackburnian Warbler	10/01/20	Bodega Dunes Camp-ground	SON	1	JoS
Palm Warbler	09/21/20	Bodega Marine Lab housing	SON	1	MarB, LiH
Palm Warbler	09/28/20	Bodega Head State Park	SON	1	DeF, ScC
Palm Warbler	10/08-9/20	Valley Ford Estero Road	SON	1	Ma&LuS, MarB, JoS, RoS, JeV photos
Palm Warbler	10/11/20	Westside Regional Park	SON	1	AIH
Palm Warbler	10/16/20	Sea Ranch	SON	1	Ma&LuS photo
Palm Warbler	10/19/20	Bodega Head State Park	SON	1	TeR
Summer Tanager	10/04-07/20	Pocket Canyon Highway	SON	1m	JoS, RAR, ScC photos
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	09/27/20	Owl Canyon	SON	1m	AIH

OBSERVERS FOR THIS PERIOD

Mario Balitbit • Nicole Barden • John & Marianne Batchelder • Bob Battagan • Dave Barry • Gordon Beebe • Malcolm Blanchard • Malcolm & Beatrice Blanchard • Theodora Block • Ken Burton • Aidan Brubaker • Scott Carey • Richard Cimino • Everett & Julie Clark • Reef Comer • Lucas Corneliusen • Wendy Dandridge • Ricky Davis • Ann Dewart • Chris Dunford • Daniel Edelstein • Dea Freid • Kevin Gin • Mary Grishaver • Kevin Guse • Alex Henry • David A. Hofmann • Liza Hug • Eugene Hunn • Nancy & Eugene Hunn • Jered Karr • Don Kirker • Rick LeBaudour • David Leland • David Lumpkin • Ron Mallory • Kate E.Magoon • Tess McGuire • Karen Meridith • Alex Merritt • Colin Meusel • Zack Mikalonis • Whitney Mortimer • Dan Nelson • Brook O'Connor • Ted Robertson • Brigid O'Dowd • Brandy Rucker • Ruth Ann Rudesill • David Schmidt • Dan Singer • Tom Slyker • Josh Snead • Anke Snow • Mark & Lucas Stephenson • Ron Storey • Emilie Strauss • Nathan Thuma • Teresa & Miles Tuffli • Jeff Valfer • Alan Wight • Karen Wilkinson



PISHING with PARMETER

OLD BUENAVENTURA ROAD, COLOMBIA : JULY 12, 1975

The Old Buenaventura Road runs from Cali to the city of Buenaventura on the west coast of Colombia. We arrived in Buenaventura late

at night and as a consequence could not park our cars in the parkadero. We therefore parked our cars on the street in front of the hotel. Someone got up every hour to guard the cars. This was the roughest looking city I have ever been in. When it came my turn to watch the vehicles I advised John not to open the door to our room unless the person at the door was Gordon Bolander or Van Remsen. However, all went well.

We had been advised that the old road was good birding. This was an understatement – it was excellent birding. I ended the first day with 40 lifers. When we visited the same area the next day, I added 16 lifers.

One of the birds I saw the first day was the **Brown-hooded Parrot**. This was my 1000th life bird. This species was subsequently lumped with the Beautiful Parrot which then became my 1000th.

The long list of birds seen included **Yellow-rumped Tanager**, **Variable Seedeater**, **White-thighed Swallow** (with an odd flight), **White-breasted Wood-Wren**, **Roadside Hawk**, **Golden-collared Manakin**, **Short-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant**,

Scaled Pigeon, **Tawny-crested Tanager**, **White-tailed Trogon**, **Chestnut-mandibled Toucan**, **Band-rumped Swift**, **Blue-headed Parrot**, and **Green Thorntail** (a hummingbird).

Other species included **Long-tailed Tyrant**, **Black-crowned Tityra**, **Dusky-faced Tanager**, **Streaked Antwren**, **Great Antshrike**, **Scarlet-thighed Dacnis**, **Rufous-winged Tanager**, **Gray-capped Flycatcher**, **Emerald Tanager**, **Silver-throated Tanager**, **Rufous Piha**, **White-shouldered Tanager**, **Spot-crowned Barbet**, **Purple-crowned Fairy** (another hummingbird), **Golden-chested Tanager**, **Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo**, **Scarlet-and-white Tanager**, **Slate-colored Grosbeak**, **Purple-throated Fruitcrow**, **Collared Forest-Falcon**, and **Wagler's Oropendola**. That evening we returned to the hotel in Buenaventura in time to get the cars into the parkadero.

The next day we birded the same area. Species seen included **Buff-rumped Warbler**, **White-necked Jacobin** (another hummingbird), **Stripe-billed Aracari**, **Giant Cowbird**, **Rufous-tailed Jacamar**, **Yellow-green Vireo** (which I recently saw in Owl Canyon!), **Gray-and-gold Tanager**, **Fork-tailed Woodnymph** (a hummingbird), **Ruddy Pigeon**, and **Semicollared Hawk**. These were two of the best days of birding I've ever had.

At home, I have a travel guide to South America. It advises that if your boat lands at Buenaventura you should not get off the boat - "It's an unsafe city".

PHOTO GALLERY



The shift of seasons welcomes back a number of beloved winter birds. In these images captured by Dennis Luz, a Cedar Waxwing enjoys a meal while a female Hooded Merganser basks in the warmth of the sun.





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

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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.