

KITE TALES

a monthly newsletter from the
Redwood Region Ornithological Society

Volume 55, Number 2

October 2019



Costa's Hummingbird // Courtesy of Tom Reynolds



Next RROS General Meeting
October 9th // 7 pm



What's New on the RROS Website?
Check out the Gallery page for two interesting birds
spotted recently with color-abnormalities!

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SAVE THE DATE

Monthly Meeting: Wed, Oct 9th, First United Methodist Church, 1515 Montgomery Dr, Santa Rosa 7pm

This month's program: John Sterling's Morocco adventures

John will share highlights from his tours' adventures in Morocco. With its high mountains, high desert, low Sahara desert, agricultural plains, coastal lagoons, cork oak woodland, and coniferous forest, Morocco has much to offer birds and birders. Home to several endemic bird species as well as North Africa species not readily seen elsewhere, it is also along the major migratory pathway for European migrants including shorebirds, raptors, songbirds and others. Join us for virtual tour of the country's birds, landscapes and culture.



About the speaker:

John has been a hard core birder in California since he was shown a Pileated Woodpecker in 5th grade camp in 1971. He is a professional ornithologist and has worked for the Smithsonian Institution, US Forest Service research stations, HT Harvey & Associates, Arizona and Oregon state universities among other organizations since 1981. John has traveled extensively throughout California learning about local bird distribution and is an authority on that state's avifauna. In 2015 he set the California's new big year record with 501 species and has many big day records as well. He has traveled internationally as a guide and ornithologist for many institutions including projects as a Smithsonian ornithologist to Mexico, Ecuador, Peru, The Philippines, Sumatra, Canada and Russia. John currently has his own company, Sterling Wildlife Biology (www.sterlingbirds.com), specializing in tours, birding classes, research and environmental consulting for The Nature Conservancy, National Audubon's International Alliance Program, CA Dept. of Water Resources among other organizations.

UPCOMING RROS FIELD TRIPS & EVENTS

Saturday October 5 - Outer Pt Reyes National Seashore - **Best time to be out there! 7:30 am**

Meet at Petaluma Park n Ride 7:30am (Hwy 101x116) or at White House Pool (on Sir Francis Drake Blvd) 8:00am. Bring lunch (nothing out there to buy) layers, scopes and bins. We'll cover White House Pool, Inverness Tennis Court, then to the Head if open, Fish Docks, the Ranches. There are bathrooms.

Leader Ruthie Rudesill 707-833-6026 cell 707-481-0768 or ruthier@sonic.net

Final Fall Pelagic Trip Sunday October 6 - Bodega Bay

If interested in the October pelagic, check with Gene enhunn323@comcast.net to see if there are any spaces left.

Saturday October 19 - Pepperwood & Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation Hosts "Birding Across the Watershed"

Join Pepperwood and Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation staff and naturalists for a day of birding from the wetlands to the headwaters. We will start the day at Laguna de Santa Rosa – heading first to Santa Rosa Creek and then on to Delta Pond. Meet at Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation, end at Pepperwood \$50 per participant (\$45 for Pepperwood Members) Ages 13 and up welcome. 8:30 am - 3:30 pm.

Questions? Contact Holland Gistelli at hgistelli@pepperwoodpreserve.org or 707-591-9310 x124

Sunday November 3 - Mendocino Coast - **Look for that new scoter species! 7:15 am***

Meet at PGE Park N Ride 7:15 am on River Rd. We'll carpool from there. This will be an all day trip. We'll drive out Hwy 128 through Boonville to the coast and north to Ft Bragg. Bring lunch, layers, scopes and bins, money for park entrances. There are fast food restaurants and gas in Ft Bragg. There are bathrooms once we reach coast. Heavy rain cancels. ***Reminder to turn your clocks back for the end of daylight savings time starting on Sunday, November 3rd!**

Leader Ruthie Rudesill 707-833-6026 cell 707-481-0768 or ruthier@sonic.net

Welcome to Fall!

What a great time many of us had at our potluck membership meeting in September at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park. The weather was great, the food was fantastic, and the company even better. Estimates are that we had a combined experience living in the natural world ranging from just under 2 years for our littlest YAM-let to almost 90 years for our most revered elder states-people. The total birding experience had to be well over 750 years among the 30 or so in attendance.

Participants in the "after-dinner-after-meeting" bird walk, led by Field Trip Coordinator, Ruthie Rudesill, enjoyed lots of sights and sounds of the evening, including flight of a **Great Horned Owl** from its perch near the Observatory; many deer munching an evening meal; a spectacular almost full Harvest moon rising over the southern ridge of the park; and calls of the **Common Poor-wills**, **Western Screech-Owls**, **CRICKETS**, and the calls of over-the-top excited children pointing out deer, birds, etc. to those of us bringing up the rear of the group.



Special thanks go out to Loren, the kind and welcoming volunteer at the Robert Ferguson Observatory. On a detour from the evening bird-walk, one RROS member brought two of our kindergarten-age members up to the observatory telescope, expecting only to point out the telescope. Loren had the scope trained on Jupiter, and he kindly grabbed a stepstool and helped show two little girls the wonder of looking at Jupiter and several moons. Of course the adult birders wanted to see the planet as well, and Loren very graciously allowed everyone a view. Hopefully, we weren't too rambunctious and didn't disturb the lecture that was going on at the observatory. We very much appreciated the opportunity and hope that any RROS members who are able and so inclined will consider contributing to this great Sonoma County organization:

Robert Ferguson Observatory <http://www.rfo.org/donate.html>

OR

Valley of the Moon Observatory Association (VMOA)

PO Box 898, Glen Ellen, CA 95442

Finally, another thanks to longtime RROS member and past president, Bob McLean for the generous donation of proceeds from the sale of his telescope to RROS. At the conclusion of the bird walk, we were able to get the scope on Saturn, which was spectacularly visible with all its rings, seemingly rising to the west of the moon over the southern ridge of the park. What a night!

Please join us for future adventures as we head into our 2019-20 year.

FIELD TRIP REPORT

RROS Field Trip report - September 15th, 2019 - Bodega Bay

We had a great turnout, 27 participants, some from out of the area. The weather was fantastic, which was bad news for finding vagrants. We saw about 60 species, low due to not locating the shorebirds (thanks to wind surfers at Doran.) Highlights: a few saw a **Willow Flycatcher**, **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**, **Red-breasted Nuthatches** in several locations, for **Fox Sparrows**, and a feeding frenzy spectacle of about 100 pelicans (mostly Brown) in the harbor. While the lack of vagrants was disappointing, Peter Colasanti described our day best "Nice group of people off on a Sunday treasure hunt." Note: two hours after the field trip ended, Gene Hunn found a **Summer Tanager** on Bay Flat Rd behind the Rail Ponds.

- Ruthie Rudesill, RROS Field Trip Coordinator





PISHING with PARMETER

PAPUA NEW GUINEA continued // JULY 28 - AUGUST 8, 2001

On 7/28/01 we flew west to Kiunga on the Fly River drainage. There is a large Australian cooper-gold mine here, where we stayed in the two mine guest buildings. I was feeling a bit ill and thus stayed put this morning. My health improved greatly when my son returned and showed me the list of species he had seen. Fortunately, the group returned to the same site for the afternoon and I was able to catch up.

Highlights of the afternoon included: **Greater Bird of Paradise, Black-capped Lorry, Yellow-capped Tiger Parrot, Red-throated Lorikeet, Papuan Mountain Pigeon, Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove, Trumpet Manucode (B of P), Lowland Peltops, Golden Monarch (Flycatcher), Long-billed Honeyeater, Vulturine Parrot, Palm Cockatoo, Orange-fronted Fruit Dove, and Golden Cuckoo-Shrike.**

On 7/29 our time was spent around Kiunga: **Hooded Butcherbird, Metallic Starling, Orange-Breasted Fig Parrot, Papuan Flowerpecker, Long-tailed Bussard, Long-billed Cuckoo, Black-sided Robin, Rufous Babbler, Blythe's Hornbill, and Doria's Hawk.**

We headed 20 miles north to Tababil, enroute: **Large Fig Parrot, Circadabird, Rusty Pitahoui, Mountain Peltops, Spot-breasted Meliphaga, and White-breasted Thicket Fantail.**

Species added on 8/1: **Carola's Parotia (B of P), Greater Bird of Paradise, Crinkle-collared Manucode (B of P), Rusty Whistler, Magnificent Bird of Paradise, Red-breasted Pygmy Parrot, White-eared Bronze Cuckoo, Great Wood Swallow, Salvadori Teal (on a mountain stream), Torrent Flycatcher, Black-headed Whistler, and Golden Myna.**

The next day we flew over the central mountain ranges to the Karawari River which is a main tributary of the Sepic River, The Sepic drains much of the north slope of the central mountain ranges. ■

OBSERVATIONS

AUG 21 2019 TO SEPT 20, 2019 // COMPILED BY DAVID A. HOFMANN

Species	Date(s)	Location	Cty	#	Observer(s)
Common Poorwill	09/11/19	Sugar Loaf Ridge St. Park	SON	2	RAR, EuH, JeV, JoS, mob RROS meeting
Black Swift	09/17/19	Bay Hill Road	SON	2	ScC
Costa's Hummingbird	09/01-18/19	Santa Rosa, 2028 Piner Rd	SON	1m	SaB, DAH, AIW, DoK, Je&EvV, RoO, MalB, EuH, LeA, LiH, WeD, ToB, DoS, JoS, ScS, MaG, CoM, TiE, AnO, MarB, DaN, DaL, LiP, KuM, RoP, ChN, Wi&RiB, MoF, NoO, CoH, LiW, BaK, Br&OrO, DaT, Mi&SuG, PeC, JeK, WiG, LHC, NaO photos
Ridgeway's Rail	08/31-09/07/19	Port Sonoma	SON	5	StP, LiH, JoS, Je&EvV, MaG, MalB, CoM, DoK, SuK mob photos
Ridgeway's Rail	09/14/19	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	1	HiR heard only
Baird's Sandpiper	08/31-09/13/19	Shollenberger Park	SON	3	LiH, DoK, JoS, Je&EvV, Ma&LuS, PeC, EuH, mob photos

Pectoral Sandpiper	09/17-20/19	Carmody Road-south pond	SON	1	LiH, EuH, DaL, DoK, MaIB, JoS
Semipalmated Sandpiper	08/28/19	Lower Tubbs Island	SON	1	AIL
White-faced Ibis	08/24/19	Shollenberger Park	SON	7	CaT, Mi&SuG, mob photos
Red-tailed Hawk (leucistic)	09/10/19	Bodega Hwy, Bodega	SON	1	MaB, JoS, MaG, BaK photos
Prairie Falcon	09/07/19	Santa Rosa Creek Trail	SON	1	DoK
Barred Owl	08/22/19	Woodside Dr. Forestville	SON	1	MarB heard only
Barred Owl	09/05/19	Sea Ranch / Deep Woods Dr.	SON	1	LoP heard only
Gray Flycatcher	09/06-07/19	Freezeout Road X Islands in the Sky Vista Loop in Cassini Ranch pasture	SON	1	Te&MiT, LiH, Beatrice, BDP, AIW, DaN, JoS, DAH, RAR, DoK, MarB, DoS photos
Evening Grosbeak	09/13/19	King Ridge Road bridge at UCC Camp	SON	1	DaA
Red Crossbill	09/08/19	Freezeout Rd/Cassini Rch field	SON	2	MarB
Lawrence's Goldfinch	04/26/19	Hudeman Slough	SON	1	MuB
	09/01/19	Arrowood Vineyards Glen Ellen	SON	1	FrB
Black-throated Sparrow	09/04-06/19	Campbell Cove/Hole-in-the-Head	SON	1 juv	EuH, DeF, Ma&LuS, RAR, PeC, LiH, MaIB, DAH, Je&EvV, RoO, AnO, MarB, DoK, AIW, DaN photos
Northern Waterthrush	09/09/19	Russian Gulch State Beach	SON	1	Te&MiT photos
Nashville Warbler	09/09/19	Spring Lake Regional Park	SON	1	JeV
Nashville Warbler	09/12/19	Rail Ponds on Bay Shore Road	SON	1	DeF
Canada Warbler	09/18/19	Bodega Bay North Shore	SON	1	LiH, EuH, DoK, mob
American Redstart	09/20/19	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	1f	JoM, EuH
MacGillivray's Warbler	09/04/19	Somo Village/Credo High	SON	1m	LuC
MacGillivray's Warbler	09/13/19	Nagasawa Park	SON	1m	AIW
Magnolia Warbler	09/17-18/19	Bodega Bay, Bay Flat Road	SON	1f	ScC, DoM, DeF
Chestnut-sided Warbler	09/20/19	Russian Gulch State Beach	SON	1m	LiH photos
Hermit Warbler	09/10/19	Keysite Technologies Site	SON	1m	AIW
Hermit Warbler	09/17/19	Sugar Loaf Ridge State Park	SON	1m	MaIB, MaG, BaK
Summer Tanager	09/15-17/19	Bodega Bay, Bay Flat Road	SON	1m	EuH, Br&OrO, DeF, JoS, MaIB, EvV, RoO, RiL, WeD, TiE, WiG, JeV photos

OBSERVERS FOR THIS PERIOD

Leah Alcyon • Will Anderson • David Assman • Mario Balitbit • Sam Barbitta • Frazier Bardolph • William & Rita Bevans • Malcomb Blanchard • Tony Briggs • Scott Carey • Lee-Hong Chang • Peter Colasanti • Lucas Corneliusen • Wendy Dandridge • Tiffany Erickson • Jules Evens • Dea Freid • Mookie Fudemberg • Will German • Mike & Sue Gragg • Mary Grishaver • Connie Haile • David A. Hofmann • Lisa Hug • Eugene Hunn • Baris Karadogan • Jered Karr • Susan Kelly • Barbara Kendrick • Don Kirker • Rick LeBaudour • David Leland • Albert Linkowski • David Lumpkin • Joy Mander • Colin Meusel • Kurt Mize • Dominik Mosur • Dan Nelson • Christian Naventi • Brook & Orion O'Connor • Nathan Odell • Ann O'Donnell • Rob O'Donnell • Norm Ortman • Benjamin D. "Mike" Parmeter • Linda Pittman • Stephanie Poley • Lory Poulson • Ron Pozzi • Heidi Rigier • Ruth Anne Rudesill • Doug Shaw • Josh Snead • Scott Sorby • Mark & Lucas Stephenson • David Tomb • Teresa & Miles Tuffli • Cathy Tuley • Jeff & Eva Valfer • Liz West • Alan Wight

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

RROS Pelagic Excursion Report

RROS/Marin Audubon joint Bodega Pelagic trip, September 22, 2019.

The marine weather forecasts for the waters offshore between Pt. Reyes and Pt. Arena were not encouraging. However, trusting the New Sea Angler and Captain Rick Powers we braved the wind and waves. It was rough, but manageable. Heading out we hit patches of rough seas and had winds peaking at 20 knots 25 miles out. We then turned south toward Cordell Banks with the wind and seas behind us.

We hit patches of whale and bird activity over concentrations of anchovies not too far from shore, but found the deep waters surprisingly quiet. Nevertheless, with the help of a few late highlights, the trip was well worth the effort. The official e-bird hour-by-hour counts will be posted shortly by Mario Balitbit.

Arctic Terns and Sabine's Gull offered close views on several occasions. Pomarine and Long-tailed Jaegers cruised by off-and-on all day, some quite close at hand. At least six **SOUTH-POLAR SKUAS** were an impressive total. One was a blond-naped adult plus we got to watch a dogfight between two young skuas at close quarters. **Common Murres**, **Cassin's** and **Rhinoceros Auklets** were below average in number but seen well. Our final act was a highly cooperative adult **TUFTED PUFFIN** on the return. Tubenoses put on a show of fancy flying in the stiff winds: **Sooty**, **Pink-footed**, and **Buller's Shearwaters** all were present in good numbers, especially near the feeding whales. In sharp contrast to our August 26 trip, phalaropes and storm-petrels were virtually absent. A cooperative **LAYSAN ALBATROSS** with a small group of **BLUE WHALES** on our way in ranked up on the highlights list. Also, a **Peregrine Falcon** a ways offshore pursued a gull jaeger-style.

Thanks to our expert guides, Steve Howell, Mario Balitbit, Dan Singer, Alan Hopkins, and Lisa Hug.

The following numbers are from Steve Howell's notes:

22 Sep 2019 MAS/RROS joint Bodega Bay pelagic trip:

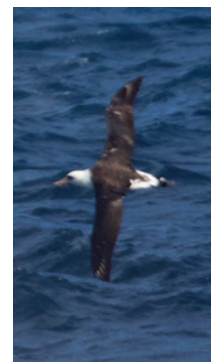
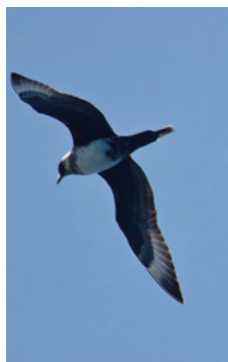
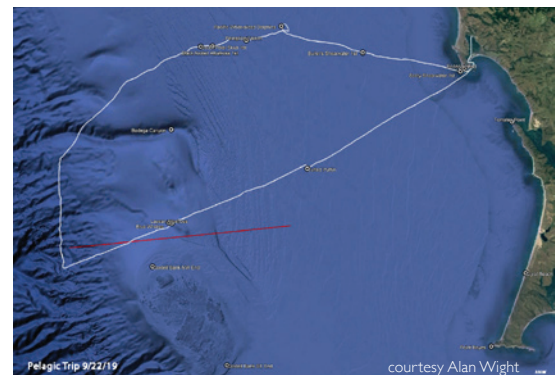
Red-necked Grebe 1, Black-footed Albatross 13-15, Laysan Albatross 1, Northern Fulmar 2, Buller's Shearwater 50+, Pink-footed Shearwater 370+, Sooty Shearwater 1250+, Ashy Storm-Petrel 1, Red-necked Phalarope 3, South Polar Skua 9, Pomarine Jaeger 6, Long-tailed Jaeger 7, Sabine's Gull 36+, Arctic Tern 7, Common/Arctic tern 2, Common Tern 2, Tufted Puffin 1, Rhinoceros Auklet 13, Cassin's Auklet 24, Pigeon Guillemot 1, Common Murre 100+, Peregrine Falcon 1 with prey (auklet?)
Blue Whale 4-6, Humpback Whale 30+, Pacific White-sided Dolphin 20-30, California Sealion 3, Harbor Seal 1.

-Gene Hunn for Redwood Region Ornithological Society Pelagics.



Black-footed Albatross

Buller's Shearwater



South Polar Skua

Pomarine Jaeger

Laysan Albatross

PHOTO GALLERY



▲ **Summer Tanager** // Rail Ponds, Bodega Bay // Rick Labadour

Observed and photographed! This month's gallery opens with a few of the notable sightings from our Aug/Sept Observations...



▲ **Gray Flycatcher**
Freezeout Road, Cassini Ranch pasture // Teresa Tuffli



▲ **Northern Waterthrush** ▲
Russian Gulch State Beach
Teresa Tuffli



▲ **A young Black-necked Stilt**
Shollenberger, Petaluma // Teresa Tuffli



▲ **Whimbrel** // Bodega Bay // Dennis Luz



▲ **Pigeon Guillemot**
Doran Regional Park, Bodega Bay
Teresa Tuffli



▲ **Sooty Grouse** // Drakesbad Meadow, Lassen // Rick Labadour



▲ **Bushtit** // Jenner Headlands // Miles Tuffli

*Editor's Note:
This month's photo submissions offers us a surprise look at two sides of the same coin (well, species) Enjoy!*



Leucistic Red-tailed Hawk
Bodega Bay // Malcolm Blanchard

*Double
Take!!*



Leucistic Red-tailed Hawk
North of Jenner // Barry Samuels



▲ A pair of Common Loons doing their best MC Escher impersonation // Dennis Luz



▲ Red Knot // Spud Point, Bodega Bay // Rick Labadour

*On the wing
&
On the land*



▲ Red Knot // Tides Wharf, 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

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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.