

KITE TALES

a monthly newsletter from the
Redwood Region Ornithological Society

Volume 56 Number 2

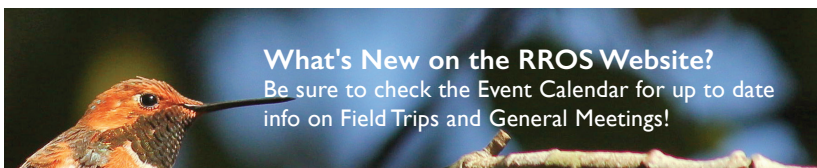
October 2020



Green Heron  Teresa Tuffli



Next RROS General Meeting
October 14th // 7:00 pm



What's New on the RROS Website?
Be sure to check the Event Calendar for up to date
info on Field Trips and General Meetings!

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SAVE THE DATE

October Virtual Membership Meeting: Wednesday, October 14th 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! Further information, including links to access the meeting can be found on RROS.org .

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.

October 10, 2020, Sugar Loaf Ridge State Park , 5:45AM-10:00AM  - CANCELLED DUE TO GLASS FIRE

A future owling trip TBA at a later date.




For more information contact Malcolm Blanchard (707) 480-2210.

October 24, 2020 , Willow Creek Road - Jenner , 8:00 am- Noon  

Join Teresa and Miles Tuffli for a morning of birding along Willow Creek Road in Jenner. During raptor migration season, we'll have the potential for multiple species - Ferruginous Hawks, American Kestrels, Bald Eagles, and more. Many wintering and year-round passerines will be frequenting the willows, alders, and scrub. With a view of the Russian River, we'll look for some water birds as well.

We'll bird the road's entrance on foot. We'll then move all cars down the road to a large pullout. We'll bird the willows, creek area, and river view on foot before continuing down the road, stopping to bird various sections. **No bathrooms.** Heavy rain cancels. Bring a face mask, layers, water, lunch or snacks, and sunscreen.

For more information contact Malcolm Blanchard (707) 480-2210.

November 14, 2020, San Pablo Bay shore sites, 8:00AM-1:00PM   

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.**

 : Bring Lunch

 : Bring Water

 : Restrooms Available

 : Parking Fee

FIELD TRIP REPORT

PT. REYES : SEPTEMBER 12TH 2020

The RROS field trip season started off on September 12 with a trip to Pt. Reyes led by Ruthie Rudesill. The park had been closed for days before due to wild fires in the vicinity. However, the day before our trip, the northern part of the park opened up. Ten birders converged at the White House Pool rendezvous. We first birded the Inverness Tennis Club, which turned out to be the birdiest spot of the day. The best bird there was an Olive-sided Flycatcher. There were also a very large number of Warbling Vireos (15-20), in addition to many local warblers. No exotics, alas.

We then made our way out toward the coast. Most of Sir Francis Drake Road is under construction, so in addition to the dense fog, we were driving on dirt roads. Very surreal. We made it to Drakes Beach for lunch, where the skies cleared. While there, we heard several Virginia Rails and a Sora and triggered an eBird rare-bird alert for a Wrentit. Yes, Wrentit is considered rare at Drakes Beach. A magnificent Tule Elk stag was seen as we left Drakes Beach. On our way home, we birded Mt. Vision, which was very quiet.

The group tallied a total of 60 species for the day. All the birds recorded can be seen at RROS's eBird account here: <https://www.rros.org/ebird>

- Malcolm Blanchard, Field Trip Coordinator

RROS PELAGIC TRIP : SEPTEMBER 27TH 2020

We dodged a bullet after three days of very stiff offshore winds to escape the harbor for an exploration of Bodega Canyon and the Cordell Banks at the edge of the continental shelf. This was the first and likely only offshore trip from Bodega Harbor during the pandemic and the 22 observers aboard Captain Rick Powers' New Sea Angler carefully observed masking and social distance recommendation throughout. Mario Balitbit, Dan Singer, and Lisa Hug served as our expert spotters. The trip proved to be in certainly the Top Ten pelagic trips of my life time.

We left the harbor just after 7 AM pursued by a gaggle of Elegant Terns. A distant White-tailed Kite working the top of Bodega Head was an unusual addition to our pelagic bird list. As we rounded the jetties and left the head behind, the Captain negotiated the chop left by the winds of the previous week, but there was little wind and the seas soon calmed. Having left the pelican, cormorant, and murre concentrations to the stern, we enjoyed a band of phalaropes, mostly REDs, but with the occasional RED-NECKED for close comparison.

Next up, our first pod of feeding HUMPBACKED WHALES. The Captain declared that these whales "really liked his boat," as they use it to corral their dinner, in this case, an abundance of anchovies. Crowds of porpoising pin-nipeds (CALIFORNIA and STELLER'S SEA LIONS) cavorted amongst the feeding humpbacks.

Just beyond we approached a mixed flock of shearwaters, a very mixed flock: SOOTIES, PINK-FOOTS, and BULLER'S, as was expected, but then our ever vigilant, hyper-alert sharp-eyed contingent of teen-aged birders called out FLESH-FOOT, the first of two of this rare, heavy chocolate shearwater. To top it off, Mario captured a single SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER on camera. Not long after, the first of our few NORTHERN FULMARS cruised by and our first BLACK-FOOTED ALBATROSS dropped in for a brief look around.

Farther along, a smattering of CASSIN'S and RHINOCEROS AUKLETS flushed ahead of the boat and the first storm-petrels were called out by the sharp-eyed youngsters. We found no dense concentrations of storm-petrels

this trip, but managed decent looks at a number of our Farallon near-endemic ASHY STORM-PETRELS, plus several long-winged BLACK STORM-PETRELS, rare this far north, plus single WILSON'S and FORK-TAILED STORM-PETRELS, for an 11 tube-nose day. SABINE'S GULLS drifted by in small flocks: eye candy of the gull clan.

A group of three SOUTH-POLAR SKUAS on the water just ahead initiated a most extraordinary STERCORIID day (that is, jaegers and skuas). As the day progressed, we witnessed a near constant stream of skuas – more than 30 -- and jaegers, mostly POMARINE, at least 60 all told, many with long spoon-shaped tails, but with several fine-plumaged PARASITICS for direct comparison. Just one or two LONG-TAILED JAEGERs were close enough for positive identification.

Shouts from the bow called our attention to the next, and perhaps best attraction of the day, a family of ORCAS, better known as Killer Whales, led by a massive bull sporting a five-foot vertical sailfin, with a cow and two smaller whales in tow. We paced this family group for 20 minutes.

The captain turned south at the 1000-fathom line bound for the Cordell Banks. It was quiet for a time, but then more exclamations from the bow: RED-FOOTED BOOBY, as a café-au-lait juvenile flew in from the left, crossed very near the bow, then departed to the stern. Our camera-ready crew captured the moment to document what was either a first ever record of this species in Marin or Sonoma Counties, pending review of the GPS coordinates.

Mario will share our hour-by-hour tallies via e-bird shortly. Even Captain Powers was impressed. He declared that he had rarely seen “so much life offshore” in his 39 years as captain. Despite all the depressing news on shore, the Pacific Ocean is still full of life, and we were privileged to witness a piece of the action. - Gene Hunn

HIKE AND BIKE BODEGA PT. BLUE BIRD-A-THON, SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

Our team this year included Gene and Nancy Hunn, Craig Roth, and Brook O'Connor, all veterans of previous efforts. We agreed to meet at Campbell Cove on the west shore of Bodega Harbor at 7 AM sharp, near sunrise. No sign then of the sun, as the rather dense fog hid the sun until several hours on. Nevertheless, we soldiered on. Gene kept a long series of e-bird lists, one for each stop en route:

- 1) Campbell Cove and Hole-in-the-Head: Orange-crowned, Yellow Warblers, night-heron, 7:23 AM.
- 2) Bodega Head offshore (and the Cypress Tree): cormorants in the fog, sparrows, 8:53 AM
- 3) Owl Canyon: Brook and Gene crawled to the highest point for a Willow Flycatcher, 9:21 AM.
- 4) Gaffney Point: 1500 Marbled Godwits, both pelicans, meadowlark and yellow-rumps, 10:26 AM.
- 5) Rail Ponds and the North Shore: rails, grebes, one Greater Scaup, a Warbling Vireo, 11:11 AM.
- 6) Porto Bodega at high tide: 70 Elegant and one Common Terns, Green Heron, 12:11 PM.
- 7) Bodega Dunes Campground: P-Nut and a Pacific Wren, Caspian Tern calling, 12:52 PM.
- 8) The outer beach at Bodega Dunes: barefoot beach walk for Snowy Plover, plus a murre 1:19 PM.
- 9) Salmon Creek at the SRI bridge: dabbling ducks, coots, gallinules, and raptors, 2:44 PM.
- 10) Salmon Creek mouth, another sandy slog, Canada Geese, Red-necked Phalaropes, 3:24 PM.
- 11) Diekmann's parking lot: just a few hummingbirds, distant pigeons, 4:30 PM.
- 12) Fishermen's Terminal: finally spotted a Ruddy Turnstone with Blacks, 4:50 PM.
- 13) Bird Walk and Coastal Access Trail, a lone pintail and heard a gnatcatcher, 5 PM.
- 14) Head home, 5:20 PM.

The sharp eyes and ears of our crew helped meet our goal of 100 species, though just barely, 100 on the nose. As usual, we missed some common species (such as White-tailed Kite, Western Sandpiper, robin, junco...). See our list below, with locations noted. We thank our supporters for their generous contributions to the essential environmental work of Point Blue. - Gene Hunn

OBSERVATIONS

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

Species	Date(s)	Location	Cty	#	Observer(s)
Greater White-fronted Goose	09/09/20	Valley Ford Wetlands	SON	20	EzG
Lesser Nighthawk	08/29-30/20	Campbell Cove State Beach-over Hole-in-the-Head	SON	1	KEM, MarB photos
Lesser Nighthawk	08/31/20	Bodega Bay-Cypress Loop	SON	1	Br&OrO heard only
Black Swift	09/11/20	Owl Canyon	SON	2	PeC
Costa's Hummingbird	09/05/20	Owl Canyon	SON	1m	ConC, ColC, LuC
Black-chinned Hummingbird	09/06/20	Sea Ranch	SON	1m	GeG
Ridgeway's Rail	09/02-05/20	Port Sonoma	SON	1ju	MalB, Je&EvV photo
Ruff	08/23-30/20	Doran Reg Pk entrance ponds & mudflat	SON	1	Ri&AmB, DeF, Br&OrO, MarB, MalB, JoS, JeV, ZaM, ScC, JaS, LiH, CoH, WRD, ChN, CoM, EvV, RAR, De&DaH, Eu&NaH, KaF photos
Ruff	08/27-31/20	Valley Ford Wetlands	SON	1	JeP, AdH, RiC photos
Baird's Sandpiper	08/22-31/20	Valley Ford Wetlands	SON	1	Ma&LuS, RiC
Baird's Sandpiper	08/26/20	Doran Regional Park pond	SON	2	Ma&LuS
Baird's Sandpiper	08/28-09/01/20	Salmon Creek mouth	SON	2	AdH, JaS, ZaM photo
Baird's Sandpiper	09/07/20	Bodega Bay-Tides Wharf area	SON	1	MarB
Baird's Sandpiper	09/13/20	Valley Ford Wetlands	SON	2	JoS, MarB
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	09/02/20	Valley Ford Wetlands	SON	1	LuC, NoA, ScC
Pectoral Sandpiper	08/28-29/20	Salmon Creek mouth	SON	1	AdH, JaS photo
Solitary Sandpiper	08/31/20	Campbell Cove State Beach	SON	1	DaN, RAR, CoM, JoS, Ro&AnO, Je&EvV heard only taped
Pomarine Jaeger	09/02/20	Bodega Head State Park	SON	1	ScC
Black Skimmer	08/23/20	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	PeC, MaG, JeV, Mal&BeB, CoM, JoS, GaT. RAR photos
Common Tern	09/04-17/20	Bodega Bay	SON	1	RiL MarB photos
White-faced Ibis	08/22/20	Hudeman Slough	SON	1	EIL, JeV
White-faced Ibis	09/09/20	Valley Ford Wetlands	SON	1	EzG
White-faced Ibis	09/19/20	Sea Ranch-Foremast	SON	1	PaF
Tropical Kingbird	09/20/20	Bodega Head State Park	SON	1	PeC, MiF
Red-eyed Vireo	09/02/20	Campbell Cove SB	SON	1	LuC, NoA
Red-eyed Vireo	09/05/20	Owl Canyon	SON	1	ChA
Cedar Waxwing	09/18/20	Coastal Prairie Trail (This is the first confirmed nesting in Sonoma County)	SON	5	JaS photos (1 adult feeding 4 fledglings Coffeeberries)
Clay-colored Sparrow	08/25/20	S.R.—west end of Yuba Drive	SON	1	ScC, LVC photo
Brewer's Sparrow	09/13/20	Campbell Cove SB	SON	1	MarB

Green-tailed Towhee	09/11/20	Bodega Bay Spud Point	SON	1	PeC, CoM, EIL, ScC, MarB, JaH, GaT, DoK, WRD, EuH, RAR, AIW, MalB, DaN, BDP, JiL, WeB, RoO, TiE, JoS photos
Yellow-breasted Chat	08/30/20	Furlong Gulch	SON	1	EtM
Yellow-breasted Chat	09/06/20	Campbell Cove SB	SON	1	BrC
Yellow-breasted Chat	09/07/20	Valley Ford-Freestone Rd yard	SON	1	JoS
Northern Waterthrush	08/28-09/03/20	Campbell Cove SB	SON	1	AdH, Eu&NaH, EuH, CoM, DeF
Northern Waterthrush	09/10/20	Spring Lake Regional Park	SON	1	JeV
Tennessee Warbler	09/02/20	Owl Canyon	SON	1	ScC
Tennessee Warbler	09/06/20	Campbell Cove State Beach	SON	1	BrC
Nashville Warbler	09/02-05/20	Campbell Cove State Beach	SON	1	ScC, LuC, NoA, DeF, Eml, CoM
Nashville Warbler	09/06/20	Owl Canyon	SON	1	LiaH, Je&EvV, JoS
MacGillivray's Warbler	08/31-09/08/20	Campbell Cove State Beach	SON	2	DeF, CoM, Je&EvV, Eml, BrC, JoS, AIW, JaH, EIL, Eu&NaH, RAR, TiE
MacGillivray's Warbler	09/04/20	Russian Gulch State Beach	SON	1	Te&MiT
MacGillivray's Warbler	09/06-13/20	Owl Canyon	SON	1	LiaH, Je&EvV, JoS, ScC
MacGillivray's Warbler	09/06/20	Furlong Gulch	SON	3	Ma&LuS, BrB
MacGillivray's Warbler	09/10/20	Bodega Dunes Camground	SON	1	DaN
Hooded Warbler	09/04-05/20	Russian Gulch State Beach	SON	1	Te&MiT, ConC, ColC, LuC photo
American Redstart	08/26/20	Russian Gulch State Beach	SON	1m	Ma&LuS photos
American Redstart	08/27-09/02/20	Campbell Cove State Beach	SON	1m	MarB, NoA, LuC photos
Blackburnian Warbler	08/29-09/01/20	Campbell Cove State Beach	SON	1f	CoM, DoK, MarB, Je&EvV, DeF, DaN, RAR, JoS, AdH, ScC, TiE, Ro&AnO photos
Blackburnian Warbler	09/10/20	Owl Canyon	SON	1m	RAR
Chestnut-sided Warbler	09/10-12/20	Bodega Dunes Camground	SON	1	DaN, DoK, ScS
Blackpoll Warbler	09/16-17/20	Marine Laboratory entrance	SON	1	DaN, Ro&AnO, Mal&BeB
Prairie Warbler	09/04-06/20	Campbell Cove State Beach	SON	1	Eu&NaH, BrC, LiaH, Je&EvV, JoS, ToB, EtM, mob
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	09/02-07/20	Campbell Cove State Beach	SON	1m	LuC, NoA, Mal&BeB, JaH, WRD photos
Village Weaver	09/06/20	Bodega Head State Park	SON	1m	PeC, JaS photos

OBSERVERS FOR THIS PERIOD

Christopher Adlam • Noah Arthur • Mario Balitbit • Wendy Beers • Rick & Ami Bergstrom • Malcolm Blanchard • Malcolm & Beatrice Blanchard • Tony Briggs • Brian Browne • Brent Campos • Scott Carey • Richard Ciminio • Collin Cochrane • Connor Cochrane • Peter Colasanti • Lucas Corneliusen • Wendy Roe Dandridge • Tiffany Erickson • Mike Feighner • Parker Forman • Katherine Francone • Dea Freid • Ezra Garfield • Geard Green • Mary Grishaver • Connie Haile • Denise & David Hamilton • Adrian Hinkle • James Holmes • Liam Huber • Lisa Hug • Eugene Hunn • Eugene & Nancy Hunn • Emmett Iverson • Don Kirker • Rick LeBaudour • Elizabeth Lewis • Jim Lomax • Colin Meusel • Kate E. Magoon • Zack Mikalonis • Ethan Monk • Christian Naventi • Dan Nelson • Brook & Orion Oconnor • Rob O'Donnell • Rob & Anne O'Donnell • Benjamin D. Parmeter • Jeff Perkins • Ruth Ann Rudesill • Josh Snead • Jackie Sones • Scott Sorby • Mark & Lucas Stephenson • Gabriel Tarantino • Teresa & Miles Tuffli • Jeff & Eva Valfer • Eva Valfer • Jeff Valfer • Linc VanCleave • Brian Webb • Alan Wight



PISHING with PARMETER

PURACE NATIONAL PARK, CENTRAL ANDES OF COLOMBIA : JULY 1975

The day after birding Cerro Munchique we drove to Purace National Park, on

the west side of the central Andes. The park reaches altitudes of over 11,000 feet, and we drove to over 10,000 feet. At this elevation one enters a treeless area, termed the Paramo. It was like being in a penny candy store: so many new birds!

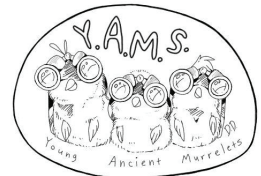
The day list included Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager (a very handsome bird!), Blue-backed Conebill, Masked Flowerpiercer, White-throated Tyrannulet, Tufted Tit-Tyrant, Black-headed Hemispingus (a tanager), Glossy Flowerpiercer, Crimson-mantled Woodpecker, Purple-backed Thornbill (a hummingbird), Superciliaried Hemispingus, Golden-breasted Puffleg (another hummingbird), Coal-black Flowerpiercer, and Buff-winged Starfrontlet (yet another hummingbird).

Other birds seen included Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant (a flycatcher), White-capped Dipper, Golden-crowned Tanager (another very handsome bird), Torrent Duck (a high altitude duck restricted to rushing mountain streams), Black-headed Brush-Finch, Sword-billed Hummingbird (with a bill as long as its entire body), Mountain Wren, Slaty Brush-Finch, Shining Sunbeam, Glowing Puffleg, Sparking Violetear (these last three all hummingbirds), and Plain-colored Seedeater. On the way back to Popayon, we found Sickle-winged Guans in a road-side tree.

We birded Purace again on the following day, 10 July 1975. Birds added included Green-tailed Train-bearer (a hummingbird), Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle, Black-crested Warbler, Black-capped Hemispingus, Streaked Tuftedcheek, Slaty-backed Chat-Tyrant, Torrent Tyrannulet, Yellow-headed Caracara, Blue-and-white Swallow, and Capped Conebill.

APPLICATION TO JOIN "YAMS" YOUNG ANCIENT MURRELETS

Requirements: *between 10 and 18 years old and interested in birds.*



Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____ email address _____

Parent or Guardian Name _____

Phone number _____ email address _____

Parent/Guardian signature _____

Please enclose \$5 (annual RROS membership fee) and mail to :

Lisa Hug
507 North Main Street
Sebastopol, Ca. 95472



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

RROS STAFF

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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.
