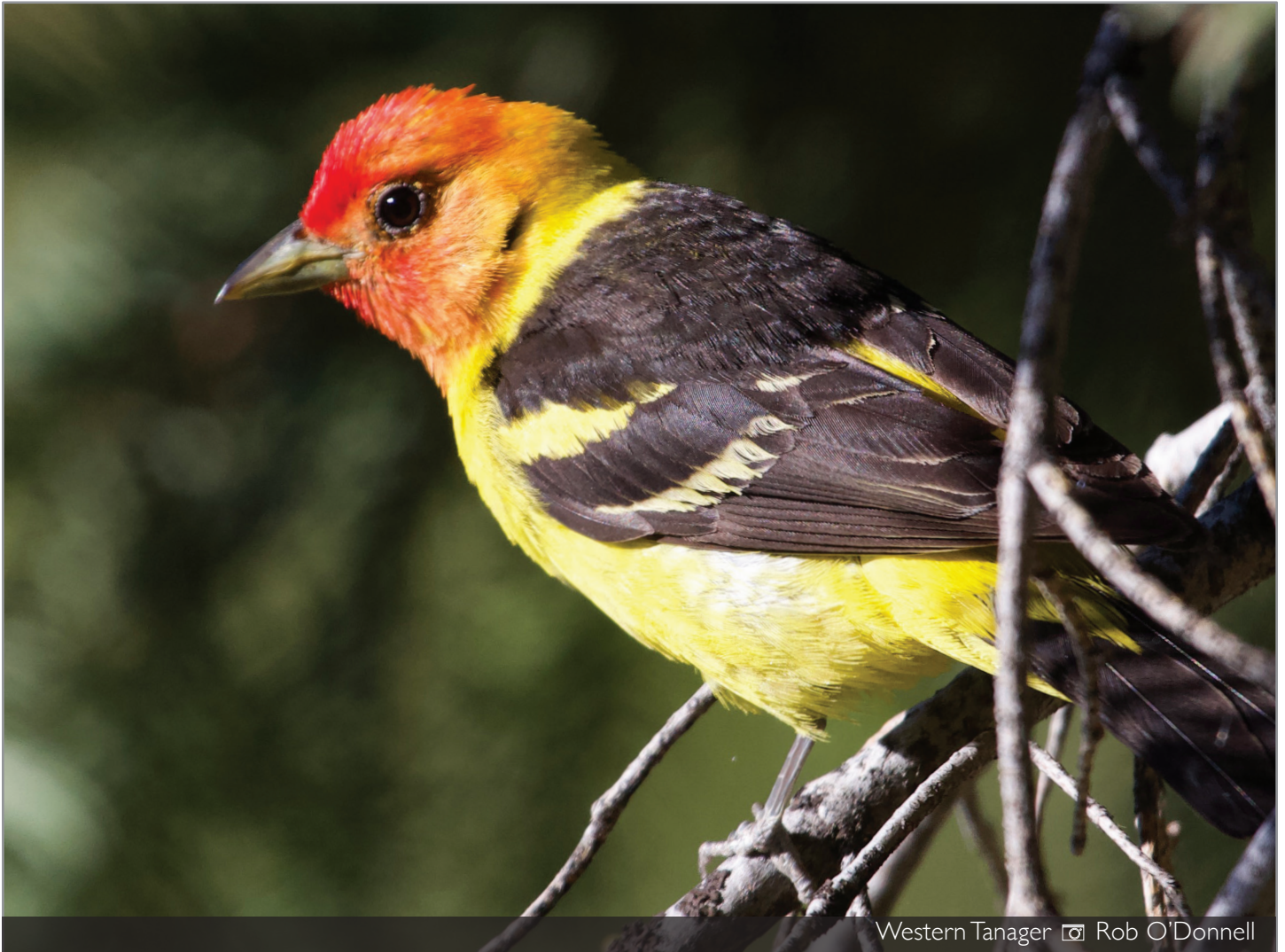


# KITE TALES

a monthly newsletter from the  
Redwood Region Ornithological Society

Volume 56 Number 1

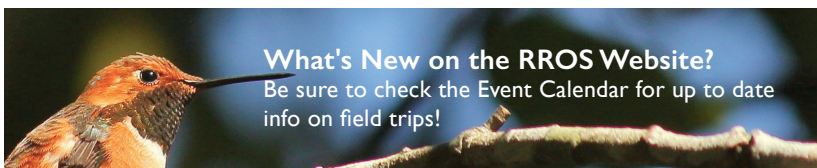
September 2020



Western Tanager ☒ Rob O'Donnell



**RROS Annual FALL Potluck**  
September 9th // 5:30 pm



**What's New on the RROS Website?**  
Be sure to check the Event Calendar for up to date  
info on field trips!

## IN THIS ISSUE

Save the Date.....	2
Upcoming Field Trips.....	2-3
Observations.....	4-5
Pishing with Parmeter.....	6
Backyard Birding.....	7
About RROS.....	8

## SAVE THE DATE

September Membership Meeting: Annual Fall Potluck, September 9th, Bodega Dunes Beach Day Use Area, 5:30 pm  
\*\*BYO-everything, including something to eat, beverage, and binoculars!\*\*

Due to the continued restrictions on gatherings at area parks, the venue for the RROS September meeting has been changed. Participants at this gathering are required to wear masks (except when eating or drinking) and to maintain 6 ft social distancing.

Starting with the October membership meeting, we hope to be able to hold hybrid or streamed meetings. We're currently looking for a venue for these smaller gatherings as we won't be able to meet at the Methodist Church on Montgomery for the immediate future. Hybrid meetings would allow for a maximum of 12 persons in attendance with the presentation 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! Stay tuned.

## 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](mailto:mab@mabco.com), or by texting or phoning him at (707) 480-2210.

September 12, 2020, Pt. Reyes, 7:30AM-1:00PM  

Join us for the inauguration of the 2020-21 birding season with a trip to Point Reyes in search of seasonal vagrants. Ruthie Rudesill will lead us. Bring a face mask and lunch. Car pooling is not required, and not prohibited--your discretion. *For more information contact Malcolm Blanchard (707) 480-2210.*

September 26, 2020, Bodega Bay, 8:00AM-1:00PM  

Continuing our quest for seasonal vagrants, we will scour the environs of Bodega Bay. Dan Nelson will lead us. Dan has probably seen more rare birds around Bodega Bay than anyone else, though you might not know that since he doesn't "do" eBird. Bring a face mask and lunch. Car pooling is not required, and not prohibited--your discretion. *For more information contact Malcolm Blanchard (707) 480-2210.*

October 10, 2020, Sugar Loaf Ridge State Park, 5:45AM-10:00AM 

Early morning owling along the entrance road to Sugar Loaf Ridge State Park. Possible Northern Spotted Owl, Long-eared Owl, or Saw-whet Owl. Probable Northern Pygmy-Owl and Western Screech-Owl. Ruthie Rudesill will lead us. Ruthie has some of the best "bird ears" in the County and great knowledge of owl calls.

Owling is about hearing the birds, so please wear quiet clothing—nothing that makes noise when you move. Carpooling is not required, and not prohibited—your discretion. After sunrise (7:15AM), those who wish to, may join us birding the Meadow/Hillside trails loop. Sugar Loaf requires a \$10 parking fee (\$8 senior) or annual pass.




*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 meet at Russian House #1 restaurant, and 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: Fresno June 2020

A crew of stir crazy RROS members made a break from the places in which they'd been sheltering the first weekend in June, heading for the hills of Fresno County. The trip had been planned pre-Covid by Ruthie, but she couldn't get away from work, so Peter took over. Officially everything was just as closed as it's been for months, internet providing lots of conflicting information. Luckily his access died a couple days prior to departure, so he left instructions to meet at the chosen campground of Midge Creek and away he bailed. Luckily those better connected, particularly Bob Hasenick, persevered and talked the manager of The Cedars into taking most of the group in.

Friday opened at Midge Creek at First Birdable Light, where Gene offered to lead the group around the Lakeshore Campground at Huntington Lake, and so we returned there. Better birds included **Spotted Sandpiper, MacGillvray's Warbler, Lincoln's Sparrow and White-headed Woodpecker.** We then continued around

the north Shore to Ruthie's Meadow, picking up **House Wren** and **Golden-crowned Kinglet.** Next we circled back around the lake and descended ultimately to Big Creek, finding **Olive-sided Flycatcher,** seeing **Mountain Quail, Calliope Hummer, Lazuli Bunting, Pewee, Gnatcatcher** and **BTG-Warbler.** Last stop was back up at Camp Keola, finding **Hermit Warbler** and **Dusky Flycatcher.**

Saturday we took the drive to Florence Lake, stopping first at a meadow Julie had cased out, and next up to Kaiser Summit, which was good for **Cassin's Finch** and **Siskins.** The drive to Florence Lake is through lots of bare granite and big bonsai junipers and struggling pines, the kind of place you normally have to hike long distances to. We found **Cassin's Vireo** and **White-throated Swifts** en route to Jackass Meadow. Over 3 hours was spent at the meadow with **Warbling Vireo, Black-chinned Hummingbird, nesting Dippers** and **Rock Wren,** and good looks at a **Willow Flycatcher.** Later at Florence Lake we found nothing new,

but it was so beautiful. On our return we dawdled at Kaiser Pass area, finding **Hammond's Flycatcher** and **Williamson's Sapsucker.** That evening The Hunn serenaded some of us fireside with Leadbelly songs.

Sunday morning we broke camp and descended to Swanson Meadow near Lake Shaver, good for such birds as **Pac-Slope Flycatcher, Purple Finch** and **Hutton's Vireo.** Next Ruthie led us to finish at McKinley Sequoia Grove, where there were lots of newly fledged **Pacific Wrens** and a **Pileated Woodpecker** which called out to bid us all adieu.

### Participants :

Ruth Rudesill, Linda Petrulias, Eugene Hunn, Nancy Hunn, Malcolm and Bea Blanchard, Josh and Effie Snead, Bob & Carol Hasenick, Rob & Anne O'Donnell, Julie Clark

**Total Haul:** 81 species, 12 new county birds

- Peter Colasanti

# OBSERVATIONS

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

Species	Date(s)	Location	Cty	#	Observer(s)
Redhead	04/27/20	Bodega harbor	SON	1m	MarB, Br&OrO
White-winged Scoter	06/18/20	Doran Regional Park	SON	1m	Br&OrO, EuH
Common Nighthawk	07/01/20	Salt Pt St Pk—Pygmy Forest	SON	1	RAR
Common Poorwill	06/30/20	Sugarloaf Ridge State Park	SON	3	Ro&AnO
Vaux's Swift	06/20-07/10/20	Sonoma residence (chimney) nested and fledged young	SON	9	KaN
Black Swift	04/23/20	Bodega Bay—Cypress Loop	SON	1	Br&OrO
White-throated Swift	04/21/20	Ida Clayton Road	SON	1	ScC
White-throated Swift	04/25/20	Robert's Lake	SON	4	JoS
White-throated Swift	04/29/20	Denman Reach Petaluma River	SON	1	CoM
Black-chinned Hummingbird	04/22-25/20	Santa Rosa—Kendell Hill Dr.	SON	1m	DaS photo
Black-chinned Hummingbird	04/25/20	Sonoma County	SON	1m	PRH photo
Costa's Hummingbird	05/31/20	Santa Rosa---Kendell Hill Dr.	SON	1m	DaS
Calliope Hummingbird	05/07/20	Laguna de Santa Rosa-Cotati	SON	1m	DoS
Pacific Golden Plover	08/04-08/20	Hudeman Slough	SON	1m	ReC, JeV, CoM, Mal&BeB photos
Stilt Sandpiper	07/14-24/20	Valley Ford Wetlands	SON	1	LiH, AIW, JoS, BrO, ScC, ZaM, ThB, DaL, GaT, ScS, Ro&AnO, MalB, MaL, RoS, ScC, DoK, ReC, PeC, DapH, RiC, RaL, EuH, DaT, JaS, Ma&LuS, Je&EvV, RiL, MaG, BaK, RAR, CoM, AIH. MarB, mob photos
Semi-palmated Sandpiper	07/19-08/04/20	Valley Ford Wetlands	SON	2	Ma&LuS, JoS, ChN, DeL, Je&EvV, MalB, EuH, GrC, MiG, AaM, CoH, CoC, LaN, RiL, CoM, AIH, MarB, ReC, AdH, LuC, GaT, RoO photos
Parasitic Jaeger	07/29/20	Bodega Head State Park	SON	1	ScC
Marbled Murrelet	06/13/20	Stewarts Pt Skaggs Springs Rd	SON	6	EIT heard & seen @5:30 am
Horned Puffin	06/20/20	Bodega Head State Park	SON	1	Eu&NaH photos
Least Tern	07/19/20	Bird Walk Coastal Access	SON	1	AIW, Ma&LuS, LiH, JuG
Black-footed Albatross	08/13/20	Bodega Head State Park	SON	1	MarB
Sooty Shearwater	07/21-23/20	Doran Reg. Pk-Bodega harbor (one was captured and taken to the Bird Rescue Center 7/23)	SON	2	PeV, LiH, RoM, Br&OrO, Ro&AnO, JeV, MarB photos
Leach's Storm-petrel	06/20/20	Bodega harbor	SON	1	ChO photos
White-faced Ibis	04/30-06/21/20	Shollenbergr Park and Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	4	PeC, MaG, EuH, ScC, CaW, StD, EIC, PeC, KaC, DoA, RobS, WeD, EIL, BeM, GaT, ScS, MalB, BoB, LiH, KaC, mob photos
White-faced Ibis	08/12/20	Valley Ford Wetlands	SON	1	AIW
White-faced Ibis	08/14/20	Hudeman Slough	SON	1ju	MarB
Common Black Hawk	06/05-28/20	Lynmar Winery / Frei Road-- -Santa Rosa Crk Delta Pond Trail west of Willowside Rd.	SON	1f	DaS, AIH, DoK, KiS, ChO, ScC, BrW photos
Rough-legged Hawk	06/13/20	North of Salmon Creek	SON	1	LaB
Barred Owl	07/01/20	Owl Canyon	SON	1	ScC heard only

Short-eared Owl	07/21/20	S. Laguna Discovery Trail	SON	1	BiD, HeK
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	05/21/20	Santa Rosa-Cypress Way home	SON	1	LoR photo
Eastern Kingbird	08/17/20	Campbell Cove State Beach	SON	1	KyB
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	05/02-05/20	Bodega Bay Hwy 1---near Diekmann's Store	SON	1f	RiL, Ro&AnO, RAR, JoS, EuH, MalB, DeF, MarB, LiH, Br&OrO, JeV, ScC, AIW, DoK, ChN, DaT, JoL CoM, DaN, DAH, mob photos
Bank Swallow	07/17/20	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	2	StG
Bank Swallow	07/17-08/02/20	Valley Ford Wetlands	SON	3	Ma&LuS, EuH, RiL, DeL, Je&EvV, MarB, TiE, AIW, AdH, LuC photos
Gray Catbird	07/03-04/20	Owl Canyon	SON	1m	Ma&LuS, ToB, EtM, JoS, WeD, RaR, photo/recorded
Phainopepla	06/08/20	Pine Flat Road	SON	1m	LiF
Red Crossbill	04/21/20	Cypress Hill Memorial Park	SON	1	CoM heard only fly-over
Red Crossbill	04/29/20	Valley Ford-Freestone Road	SON	2	JoS heard only fly-over
Red Crossbill	05/15/20	Cotati yard	SON	5	JaS photo
Red Crossbill	07/14/20	Willowcreek Road	SON	1	Br&OrO heard only
Lawrence's Goldfinch	06/13-16/20	Pine Flat Road	SON	4	LuS, AIW, ScC, mob
Clay-colored Sparrow	04/21/20	Sebastopol—Laguna Farm	SON	1	JoS photos
Bell's Sparrow	04/22-06/19/20	Pine Flat Road	SON	3	ScC, DoK, Ro&AnO, LiH, EuH, MalB, WiG photo
Yellow-breasted Chat	04/24-25/20	Santa Rosa Creek Trail--Delta Pond	SON	1	BiD, HeK, Ro&AnO
Yellow-breasted Chat	05/15/20	Forestville-Russian River	SON	1	MarB
Yellow-breasted Chat	06/11-12/20	Santa Rosa Creek Trail-Delta Pond	SON	1	BrW, Eu&NaH, MalB, WeD, JoS recorded
Yellow-breasted Chat	06/25/20	Quivira Vineyards Grape Crk	SON	1	LiH
Orchard Oriole	05/30/20	Bodega Bay—Eastshore Rd	SON	1m	RAR
Black-and-white Warbler	06/23-28/20	Hinebaugh Creek Trail	SON	1m	AIW, Eu&NaH, CoH, LuC photo & recorded
Virginia's Warbler	06/02/20	Owl Canyon	SON	1m	ToB
MacGillivray's Warbler	07/09/20	Annapolis Rd x Gualala River	SON	2	LiH photo
MacGillivray's Warbler	08/06/20	Campbell Cove State Beach	SON	1m	MarB, Te&MiT
Hooded Warbler	04/29/20	NW Petaluma yard	SON	1m	AIW well seen & taped
Hooded Warbler	06/21/20	West Sebastopol yard	SON	1m	ZaM recorded only
Northern Parula	05/30/20		SON	1m	DaN
Northern Parula	06/12-28/20	West Sebastopol yard feeder	SON	1m	KiH, LuC, FrO, RAR photos
Northern Parula	06/28/20	Montgomery Road bridge	SON	1m	RAR
Magnolia Warbler	06/01/20	Coleman Valley Road---upper	SON	1m	DeM
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	05/27/20	Occidental yard	SON	1m	EmE

### OBSERVERS FOR THIS PERIOD

Dorian Anderson • Mario Balitbit • Bob Battagin • Malcolm Blanchard • Malcolm & Beatrice Blanchard • Theodora Block • Tony Briggs • Larry Broderick • Kyle Burt • Scott Carey • Graham Chisholm • Richard Cimino • Katie Clas • Peter Colasanti • Connor Cochrane • Reef Comer • Lucas Corneliussen • Elizabeth Crouthamel • Wendy Dandridge • Steve Donnelly • Bill Doyle • Steve Dougill • Tiffany Erickson • Emily Evans • Linda Fraley • Dea Freid • Juan Garcia • Will German • Mary Grishaver • Mick Griffin • Connie Haile • Daphne Hatch • Pamela Rose Hawken •

Alex Henry • Adrian Hinkle • David A. Hofmann • Kirk Hopkiin • Lisa Hug • Eugene Hunn • Eugene & Nancy Hunn • Barbara Kendrick • Don Kirker • Helen Kochenderfer • Matt Lau • Rachel Lawrence • Rick LeBaudour • Derek Lecy • Elizabeth Lewis • David Lumpkin • John Luther • Aaron Maizlish • Roger Marlow • Beth Mason • Colin Meusel • Zack Mikalonis • Ethan Monk • David Moring • Karen Nageil • Christian Naventi • Dan Nelson • Larry Nigro • Brook & Orion OConnor • Rob & Anne O'Donnell • Rob O'Donnell • Frances Oliver • Chris Ortega • Rajan Rao • Loren Raymond • Ruth Ann Rudesill • David Schmidt • Doug Shaw • Josh Snead • Jackie Sones • Scott Sorby • Lucas Stephenson • Mark & Lucas Stephenson • Robert Stevenson • Ron Storey • Kirk Swenson • Gabriel Tarantino • David Tomb • Eli Tompkins • Teresa & Miles Tuffli • Jeff Valfer • Jeff & Eva Valfer • Peter Volante • Brian Webb • Alan Wight • Catherine Wolf



# PISHING with PARMETER

CERRO MUNCHIQUE : SUMMER 1974

In the summer of 1974 I spent three and a half weeks birding in Colombia, South

America. The trip was led by Van Remsen, who was completing his doctoral thesis on New World kingfishers. There are only six species of kingfishers in the western hemisphere, five of which are resident in the Amazon Basin where he carried out his research. Van had invited a group of ten birders from the Bay Area to join him on a birding trip to western and Amazonian Colombia. Gordon Bolander, John Parmeter, and I were part of that group. We met in Cali, a city in southwestern Colombia, on 4 July 1975.

One of the sites we visited was Cerro Munchique on the eastern slope of the western Andes (the Andes divide into three parallel north-south ranges in Colombia). It was quite a day of birding, starting at 6:00 AM and continuing until dark.

Among the many species encountered were **Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager**, **Blue-and-black Tanager**, **White-sided Flowerpiercer**, **Great Thrush**, **Lacri-**

**mose Mountain-Tanager** (so named due to the white spots on its face resembling tears), **Rufous-naped Brush-Finch**, **Sierran Elaenia**, **Grass-green Tanager**, **Flammulated Treehunter**, **Brown-bellied Swallow**, **Band-tailed Pigeon** (same species as in North America), **Yellow-breasted Chat-Tyrant** (a flycatcher), **Chestnut-collared Swift** (which I had seen previously in Mexico), **White-collared Swift**, **Tourmaline Sunangel** (a hummingbird), **Paraque** (same species found in south Texas), **Handsome Flycatcher**, **Rufous Spinetail**, **Andean Emerald** (another hummingbird), and **Blue-capped Tanager**.

We had a picnic lunch and quickly got back to birding. Species added in the afternoon were **Tyrian Metaltail** (a hummingbird), **Gray-hooded Bush-Tanager**, **Golden-fronted Redstart**, **Red-backed Hawk** (now considered a form of Variable Hawk), **Pearled Treerunner** (a very pretty bird), **Green-fronted Lancebill**, **Blue-headed Sapphire**, and **White-bellied Woodstar** (these last three all hummingbirds).

I ended the day with 26 lifers. If I had not kept notes I certainly could not remember them!



# BACKYARD BIRDING : an alternative to field trips, part 2

By: Dennis Luz

As we move on to the Fall season of bird watching, still hampered by some coronavirus restrictions, although relaxed to the extent that we are able to visit our county and regional parks, we begin to notice that many avian specie are (or already have) made their migration back to Sonoma County. On the other hand many year-round species continue to visit people's backyards.

Birders, especially those with physical mobility or transportation problems can still enjoy backyard birding. This is the time to set out and stock up those bird feeders.



This pair of Hooded Orioles have been visiting my feeder for several years in a row. I have many shots of them individually at the feeder but this one of both together taken back in March is rare for me.



Unlike the Golden Crowned Sparrows which will forage out in the open for minutes on end, the Towhee grabs a quick seed and vanishes back into the bushes. This species is a frequent visitor to my backyard.



When certain berries ripen one can often expect flocks of Cedar Waxwings and Robins eating them. It's a treat to see them eat and quench their thirst time and again at the birdbath. At the birdbath the Waxwings can be heard to protest the Robin's presence with high sree or tsee notes.



Nectar feeders are for hummingbirds and orioles, right? So what is this House Finch doing at the feeder? There's a birdbath only a few feet away. Maybe it needs its sugar high too.



## 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](http://www.RROS.org)**

## RROS STAFF

### OFFICERS

President: Anne O'Donnell.....auodonnell@gmail.com // 707-312-2376  
 Vice President: Eugene Hunn .....enhunn323@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. Hofmann .....nnamfoh@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

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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.*

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