

KITE TALES

a monthly newsletter from the
Redwood Region Ornithological Society

Volume 54, Number 5

January 2019



Northern Pintails // Courtesy of Rob O'Donnell

Next RROS General Meeting
January 9th // 7 pm



Visit us on the web at www.RROS.org

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SAVE THE DATE

Monthly Meeting: Wednesday, January 9th First United Methodist Church, 7 pm

Before the meeting you're invited to join us for dinner at 5:30 pm at Mary's Pizza, 535 Summerfield Road, Santa Rosa.

January Program: Unique ebird and Bird Identification Issues to Sonoma County

Join us for an informative talk by esteemed Naturalist and RROS member **Lisa Hug** as she goes through some challenges of using the hundreds of hotspots around Bodega Bay and surrounding coastal areas. She will also examine frequent identification issues encountered in our region.

UPCOMING RROS FIELD TRIPS & EVENTS

Sunday January 13th - Colusa National Wildlife Refuge via Lake County 7:15 am



Meet at Safeway parking lot on Calistoga Rd x Hwy 12 Santa Rosa, 7:15 am We can get coffee, snacks, bathroom there and we will move cars for car pooling.

We will bird along the way in Lake County then at Colusa NWR, Bring lunch, water, layers, a scope would be helpful. There are bathrooms at the Refuge. Heavy rain cancels.

Questions? Call leader Ruthie Rudesill 707-833-6026, cell 707-48-768 ruthier@sonic.net



: Bring Lunch



: Bring Water

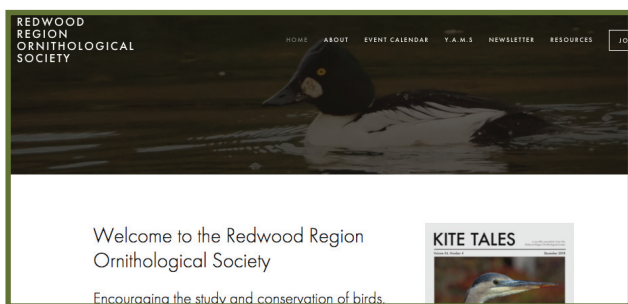


: Restrooms Available

If you have ideas of trips that you would like to lead or trips that you'd like to take, please provide them to Ruthie at ruthier@sonic.net

NEW LOOK FOR RROS.ORG

Just in time for the new year, RROS' website has a fresh new look. On the site you will find information about upcoming events, membership, a digital archive of the Kite Tales newsletters, and more.



In the coming weeks we will work to relaunch the "Rare Bird" gallery our former webmaster Ron Storey so skillfully curated. If you have photos to share of recent or past county rarities please send to Kite Tales/ Web editor, Eva Valfer, for inclusion in the new site.

Check back often for the most current information RROS has to share!

2018 SANTA ROSA CBC RECAP

The 2018 Santa Rosa CBC took place on Sunday, December 16th, with steady, cold rain most of the day. In spite of the weather, our very dedicated participants persevered in their territories, and produced a total of 131 species seen and heard...a very creditable result, considering the conditions.

Of special note was a wrenit found by Miles and Teresa Tuffli, which they heard in the background of a recording they had made on count day.

The compilation dinner, at Adel's Restaurant in Santa Rosa, was buzzing with good cheer, as participants shared stories of the day's miseries, with a lot of laughs thrown in.

Once again, many thanks to all who participated! We'll look forward to seeing you next year!

-Bill Doyle

YAMS Participate in the Santa Rosa Christmas Bird Count

Our team assembled in the morning in the old Santa Rosa Water Treatment Plant on Stony Point Road. We are now an assemblage of both veteran and young birders. This combination works well. We have learned to combine the sharp senses of youth with the wisdom that comes with experience. Every team member has a vital role.

As anyone who participated in the Count knows, it was a very wet, rainy, day. But, we persisted through the afternoon even after our clothes were drenched to our skin. Our three YAM participants were Gabe Tarantino, Beatrice Pezzolo, and Clayton Rucker.

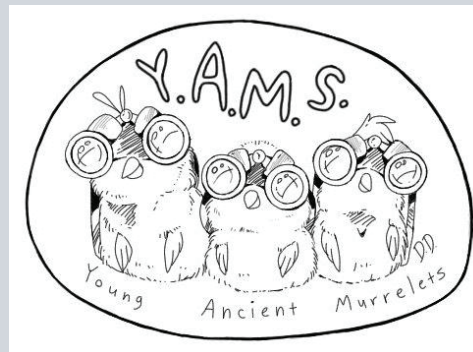
It didn't take me long to discover that Clayton had extraordinary eyesight. I adopted the strategy of following a few feet behind him and letting him spot the birds. After he was able to point out the camouflaged sparrows and pipsits to me in the dim light, we would work out their identities together.

Later, we moved on to "A Place to Play" Park on West Third Street. We had a quick gull lesson on one of the playing fields as a flock of about 50 **Mew Gulls** was mixed in with a few **Ring-billed Gulls**. We admired the **Robins** and **Cedar Waxwings** in the trees near the field and then proceeded to walk around the pond at the west end of the park.

This stroll around the pond was actually not that pleasant in the rain with the wind in our faces for the first half of the walk. But, conditions improved as we rounded the bend at the south end of the pond and returned to our cars. Even though our binoculars were wet and foggy and the light was

dim, Beatrice was able to spot a **Green Heron** for us. It was sitting very still and blending in very nicely with the blurry gray background.

Gabe played a critical part by joining Scott Sorby and the two of them would break off and search for things that we were missing. They ended up seeing our only **Merlin**. A great bird!



All in all, we ended up recording 65 species. In addition to the birds already mentioned, highlights included a **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Wilson's Snipe**, and a couple **Western** and **Glaucous-winged Gulls**.

Aside from the YAMS, other team members were Denise Cadman, Marcia Johnson, Brandy Rucker, Scott Sorby, and Christin Lopez.

Upcoming YAMS Field Trips

Our next field trip is Sunday January 13 at Bodega Bay. We will meet at Port o Bodega at 8:30am. This is a half day field trip.

We will also meet on January 23 at Cloverdale River Park to make up for the field trip we missed during the smoky air disaster. This is a half-day field trip. *More details in the YAMS email list communications.*

- Lisa Hug, YAMS Coordinator

YAMS logo by: Danielle Dube

| Species | Date(s) | Location | Cty | # | Observer(s) |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|-----|----|---|
| Tundra Swan | 12/03/18 | Salmon Creek X Hwy 1 | SON | 1 | TiE |
| Tundra Swan | 12/16/18 | San Pablo Bay NWR-Reclamation Rd | SON | 6 | EIG |
| Redhead | 11/26/18 | Bodega Farm Pond | SON | 1 | LiH |
| Harlequin Duck | 12/01-15/18 | Doran Regional Park & Bodega Bay | SON | 1m | LuC, NoA, JoS, HoL, RAR, Je&EvV, BrO, Te&MiT, MaBar, DeF, BDP, DAH, LaP, MaB EuH, ScS, GaT, DoK, mob photos |
| White-winged Scoter | 11/24-12/20/18 | Doran Regional Park & Bodega Bay | SON | 2f | Bi&RiB, DeH, NoA, LuC, Je&EvV, JoS, BrO, Te&MiT, BDP, DoK, EuH, YvM, MaR photo |
| Black Scoter | 12/01-02/18 | Campbell Cove State Beach | SON | 1f | DeK, FeA, LuC, NoA, ScS photo |
| Barrow's Goldeneye | 11/24/18 | Goat Rock State Park | SON | 1m | LuC, NoA |
| Barrow's Goldeneye | 12/14/18 | Port Sonoma | SON | 1m | ScS |
| Common Poorwill | 11/30/18 | Pepperwood Preserve | SON | 1 | NiB photos |
| Common Poorwill | 12/14/18 | Somo Village & Credo High Campus | SON | 1 | LuC |
| White-throated Swift | 11/25/18 | R. L. Stevenson State Park | SON | 4 | BrO |
| Ridgeway's Rail | 12/15/18 | Port Sonoma | SON | 2 | WeD |
| Black Rail | 12/01/18 | Shollenberger Park | SON | 1 | LuC, NoA heard only |
| Ancient Murrelet | 12/02/18 | Bodega Head State Park | SON | 2 | LuC, Ma&LuS, MaS, JoK, EtM |
| Black-legged Kittiwake | 12/01-03/18 | Bodega Head State Park | SON | 1 | LuC, NoA, ToB, HoL, RAR, LiH mob |
| Lesser Black-Backed Gull | 12/01/18 | Shollenberger Park | SON | 1 | Ma&LuS, LuC, NoA photos |
| White-faced Ibis | 11/30-12/02/18 | Ellis Creek Ponds | SON | 1 | Mi&SuG, ChN, LuC, NoA, MoF, MaG, EuH, EtM, JoK, MaS, LiH, Ma&LuS, Wi&KrW, BDP, BrO, CoM mob photos |
| Common Black Hawk | 12/17/18 | Laguna de Santa Rosa | SON | 1f | DoK, JoS, mob |
| Saw-whet Owl | 11/26/18 | Bodega Bay Brooks Gulch | SON | 1 | BrO heard only |
| Canyon Wren | 11/25/18 | R. L. Stevenson State Park | SON | 1 | BrO |
| Townsend's Solitaire | 11/25/18 | R. L. Stevenson State Park | SON | 2 | BrO |
| Red Crossbill | 11/26/18 | Santa Rosa—Westgate Cir yard | SON | 9 | BiD |

| | | | | | |
|----------------|-------------|----------------------------------|-----|----|----------------|
| Swamp Sparrow | 12/05-16/18 | Spring Lake Regional Park | SON | I | RoO, EuH photo |
| Hermit Warbler | 11/26/18 | Somo Village & Credo High Campus | SON | If | LuC |

OBSERVERS FOR THIS PERIOD

Felicia Aragon • Noah Arthur • Mario Balitbit • Nicole Barden • Margaret Barson • Bill & Rita Bevans • Tony Briggs • Lucas Corneliussen • Wendy Dandridge • Bill Doyle • Tiffany Erickson • Mookie Fudemberg • Dea Freid • Mike & Sue Gragg • Ellen Grim • Mary Grishaver • Denise Herzberg • David A. Hofmann • Lisa Hug • Eugene Hunn • Deven Kammerichs-Berke • John King • Don Kirker • Howard Laidlaw • Colin Meusel • Ethan Monk • Yvonne Motherwell • Christian Naventi • Brook Oconnor • Rob O'Donnell • Benjamin D. Parmeter • Larry Parmeter • Mary Robichaud • Ruth Ann Rudesill • Mark Schulist • Josh Snead • Scott Sorby • Mark & Lucas Stevenson • Teresa & Miles Tuffli • Jeff & Eva Valfer • William & Kristine Wiskes

Submit observations to David A. Hofmann by January 20th

PHOTO GALLERY



Happy faces during a rather successful Harlequin Duck stakeout. A Black-legged Kittiwake and White-winged Scoter were seen by some in the group that same afternoon. Doran Beach, Bodega Bay 12/2/18 // Eva Valfer



▲ A GAGGLE, A FLOCK, OR JUST A WHOLE LOT?!

This impressive display of Snow Geese was seen at the Sacramento NWR on 12/9/11 // Rob O'Donnell

PHOTO GALLERY



▲ **AMERICAN PIPIT**
Bodega Bay 12/06/18 // Teresa Tuffli



▲ **SNOWY PLOVER**
Bodega Bay 12/6/18 // Teresa Tuffli



▲ **HERMIT THRUSH**
Taken at Campbell Cove, Bodega Bay back on 11/5/08 // David A. Hofmann



▲ **FOX SPARROW**
Taken on Bay Hill Road back on 9/29/08 // David A. Hofmann



◀ **BLACK RAIL**
“Excellent views and a cryptic photo”, but exciting none the less, this Black Rail was one of two seen during a king tide walk along the tidal marsh at Ellis Creek Water Recycling Facility 12/22/18 // Malcolm Blanchard



▲ **TOWNSEND WARBLER**
Spring Lake, Santa Rosa 12/17/18 // Tom Reynolds



▲ **GREAT BLUE HERON**

Laguna de Santa Rosa 12/3/18 // Teresa Tuffli



▲ **BALD and GOLDEN EAGLE**

Sacramento NWR 12/09/11 // Rob O'Donnell



◀ **MARBLED GODWIT**

Bodega Bay 12/6/18 // Teresa Tuffli



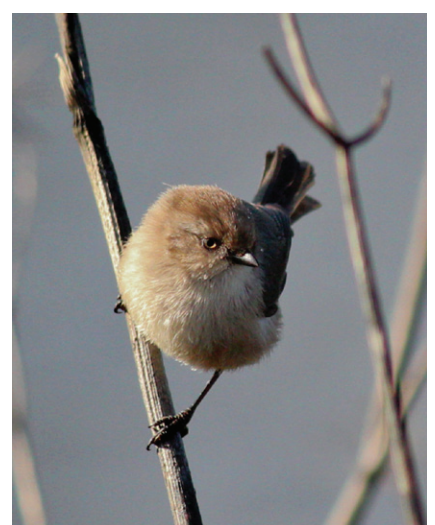
▲ **NORTHERN PYGMY OWL**

Taken at "old" Hauser Bridge on 2/1/02 // David A. Hofmann



▲ **PURPLE FINCH**

Pleasanton CBC 12/14/08 // Teresa Tuffli



▲ **BUSHTIT**

Shollenberger 12/11/18
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

RROS STAFF 2018 - 2019

| | Role | Name | E-mail | Address | Phone |
|------------------|----------------------|------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------|
| OFFICERS | President | Anne O'Donnell | auodonnell@gmail.com | 421 St. Mary Place, Santa Rosa 95409 | 538-1278 |
| | Vice Pres | Eugene Hunn | enhunn323@comcast.net | 1504 Smokey Mtn. Dr, Petaluma 94954 | 981-7301 |
| | Secretary | Rita Bevans | ritanbill@comcast.net | 237 Deanna Pl, Windsor 95492 | 484-3704 |
| | Treasurer | Rob O'Donnell | robodonnell1@outlook.com | 421 St. Mary Place, Santa Rosa 95409 | 694-9776 |
| COMMITTEE CHAIRS | Field Trips | Ruth Rudesill | ruthier@sonic.net | POB 371, Kenwood 95452 | 833-6026 |
| | Observations | David A. Hofmann | nnamfoh@comcast.net | 2021 Pioneer Wy #47, Santa Rosa 95403 | 546-0325 |
| | Christmas Bird Count | Bill Doyle | shortbill@comcast.net | 86 Westgate Circle, Santa Rosa 95401 | 483-8773 |
| | Kite Tales | Eva Valfer | evaantonvalfer@gmail.com | Sonoma | |
| | YAMS Coord | Lisa Hug | lisahug@sonic.net | Sebastopol | 535-9370 |
| | Membership | Rob O'Donnell | robodonnell1@outlook.com | 421 St. Mary Place, Santa Rosa 95409 | 694-9776 |

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.