

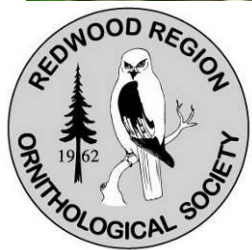
KITE TALES

A monthly newsletter from the Redwood Region Ornithological Society



LEAST FLYCATCHER: Ellis Creek WRF

Photos by Jeff Valfer



***Next RROS Meeting
April 12 @ 7:00 PM***

What's New on the RROS Website? The most current info on Meetings, Field Trips, Presentations, and more can be found at www.RROS.org.

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SAVE THE DATE

April Membership Meeting: Wednesday, April 12th, 7:00pm
 First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Dr, Santa Rosa.
 Meet in the McMullin Room, just east of the entrance to the main sanctuary OR
 JOIN via Zoom. Zoom link emailed to members. Non-members welcome: contact bobhasenick@att.net

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



April's program:
Birding's Positive Impact on Mental Health

Frank Davis is a licensed psychologist in California. He works at a mental health program in Glen Ellen called Transitioning Families wherein he and several colleagues provide intensive mental health services to children and families who have experienced a traumatic event.

Since working in Glen Ellen, Frank has begun learning about and specializing in nature based psychotherapeutic interventions including birdwatching (sometimes known as Ornithery) and wildlife photography.

Frank Davis, PhD, Licensed Psychologist

Frank hopes to share his experience of and the current evidence-based and evidence-informed research on the healing power of birdwatching with the RROS audience.

UPCOMING RROS FIELD TRIPS & EVENTS

We're not requiring field-trip attendees to make reservations, unless a specific trip needs to be limited due to physical restraints. However, you are encouraged to RSVP for all trips. In return, you will receive a reminder of the trip and automatically be shared on the group eBird list, unless you opt out. As always, carpooling is encouraged.

For more info & to RSVP, contact Malcolm Blanchard: email mab@mabco.com or text at (707) 480-2210

YAMS Sunday, April 16, 2023 8:30am-12:30pm Bodega Bay Lisa Hug

We'll meet at the Port of Bodega parking lot, 1500 Bay Flat Road at 8:30am. We will visit many places around Bodega Bay, including Bodega Head. This is the most diverse birding site in Sonoma County and a jewel on California Coast. If we visit Doran regional Park, there will be a \$7 day use fee per car. Bring lunch and layered clothing.

YAMS Sunday, April 30, 2023 7:30 AM-12:30 PM Pine Flat Road Lisa Hug

Meet at the intersection of Red Winery Road and Pine Flat Road, just east of Jimtown which is north and east of Healdsburg. We need to meet early to beat the heat and to try and avoid clashing with other outdoor activities that occur on the mountain. We will be in the car much of the time, traveling from site to site looking for spring migrants and other natural history wonders. Bring lots of snacks, water and lunch. We will try to compress in as few cars as possible.

Saturday April 15, 2023 8:00AM-1:00PM Pine Flat Road Josh Snead

Josh will lead us along Pine Flat Road. Possible birds are Mountain Quail, Purple Martin, Bell’s Sparrow, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, and California Thrasher.

Meet at 8:00AM at the bottom of Pine Flat Road, near the intersection with Red Winery Road (38.6759087, -122.8076800). This is a narrow winding road, watch for bicyclists. You are encouraged to carpool since the fewer cars on this road the better. Bring lunch, fluids, layered clothing. Please note there are no bathrooms.

Saturday April 22, 2023 8:00AM-12:00PM Santa Rosa Creek Trail Brian Webb

Brian Webb will lead us along the Santa Rosa Creek trail, west of Willowside Road. Brian has birded this trail almost every day for the last few years. To say he is knowledgeable of the birds here is an understatement—he knows the individuals and what they’re up to. It is possible we’ll see the Common Blackhawk x Red-shouldered Hawk hybrid that has established a territory nearby. Also, spring migrants should be coming through.

Meet on Willowside Road where it crosses Santa Rosa Creek (38.4450107, -122.8068619) at 8:00AM. Bring fluids, layered clothing. NOTE: there are no bathrooms.

To RSVP or for more information contact Malcolm Blanchard: (707) 480-2210

WELCOME NEW RROS Members!

F Blake & Catherine Rushworth, Sebastopol
Jeffer Giang, Windsor

THANK YOU for recent generous donation to RROS from
Jeffer Giang, in memory of Ivory-billed Woodpeckers



“Frigid, Ice-Cold Toley”

Photo by BJ Blanchard

Pileated Woodpecker, Maxwell Farms Regional Park
photo by Malcolm Blanchard

YAMS (Young Ancient Murrelets) Start the New Year with Adventures in 2023 by Lisa Hug, YAMS Coordinator

In January, we started off the new year by visiting Tolay Lake Regional Park. We met late in the afternoon and the early arrivers had fun watching two **Golden Eagles** circle in the sky above the hills on the east end of the park. When everyone was together, we peeked inside one of the barns and spied on two **Barn Owls**, a male and female huddled together. This was a great start! Then, we hiked along the Burrowing Owl Trail, and to our delight, the **Burrowing Owl** was sitting by its burrow in a rockpile safely off the trail from ogling trail walkers. We returned to the parking lot to gather warm clothes for the evening Short-eared Owl watch. This is where Levi and Bea spotted a first-of-season **Allen's Hummingbird** for the group in the flowering Eucalyptus trees. We topped off the evening by watching the glorious sunset as the **Short-eared Owls** miraculously appeared out of the wetlands to cruise over their hunting grounds in their classic harrier-like style.



Barn Owls, Tolay Lake Regional Park Photo by Lisa Hug

We had 2 two field trips in February. The first trip was a jolly jaunt around the ponds at Ellis Creek. We watched a couple of **Soras** and listened to many **Marsh Wrens** along the way. Then, we spotted a large flock of birds at the flooded field at the southeast corner of the property. We were happily scoping through the gulls and watching the **Black-necked Stilts** when we backed up to allow 2 trucks (from both directions) to pass through on the dirt road. It looked like they were going to collide. We watched in amusement and then to our dismay, the drivers of both trucks told us to get back on the paths. They were coming for us! We didn't know that we weren't supposed to be there. We continued our jaunt around the ponds, observing most of the usual species while large flocks of noisy **Cackling Geese** flew north over our heads. We ate lunch together in the parking lot and spontaneously decided to go to Shollenberger Park to look for the **Glaucous Gull**.



We first stopped in the Point Blue parking lot where Jeff Valfer saw a large white gull fly north. We followed up on his sighting and hiked to the roosting gull flock. It took a few minutes, but we found a large white gull with its head tucked in, near the middle of the flock. We waited patiently for the bird to lift its head and Voila! There it was, the large pink bill with the dark tip of the **Glaucous Gull!** -a life bird for many of the YAMS. We danced around victoriously!

YAMS for the day! Valfers, Sneads, Pezollos and Ruckers, Shollenberger Park

Photo by Lisa Hug

Our second February field trip was another owling attempt at Armstrong Woods State Park. We met in the parking lot and Brandy Rucker generously offered to drive us into the park in her large family SUV. We were disappointed to find that the amphitheater area was largely damaged in the earlier storms of the season and was totally closed off and inaccessible. This is where we had the most success last year. So, we wandered around admiring the tall trees with their amazing burls. We heard a few **Pileated Woodpeckers** and found a lovely **Ensatina** (salamander) under a fallen log. When the forest darkened, we heard at least three different **Northern Pygmy Owls**. Apart from those three owls, the tall and majestic forest was silent in the darkness. But we sure had a good time.

Rare Appearances in California Spur Visitor Viewing Frenzy

A year ago, birders from a couple of New England states were treated to a rare sighting of a Steller's Sea Eagle, a raptor normally inhabiting the icy areas of Siberia or off the northern coast of Hokkaido Island in Japan. Was the bird seeking better feeding ground or perhaps blown off course? More recently, a Snowy Owl found its way to the Southern California city of Cypress.

Over the past several years we have experienced a number of these unusual visitant sightings. There was the Falcated Duck, which showed up at the Colusa NWR back in 2012 and in 2013 a Hudsonian Godwit found its way to the Huichica Creek area in Sonoma. The most recent sighting for Sonoma County birders was the Trumpeter Swan or swans (there is conjecture among birders as to the identification of the other accompanying swan) which found their way to a large open field in Rohnert Park. David Sibley uses the term "fallout" to indicate migratory birds which are forced down due to a variety of reasons.

There are many ways birds migrate. Some migration theories focus on bird recognition of stars in the night sky, or familiar landforms which may lead to resting and feeding grounds en route to their final destinations. On the other hand, there may be those rare instances when birds "hitch a ride" on a sailing ship (perhaps part of the way) when traveling over great distances over water. Pelagic birds have no problem with this but how did the Snowy Owl find its way a couple of thousand miles off course down the coast?

A few years ago, I remember sighting of a Ross's Goose at Robert's Lake in Rohnert Park, and while this bird is commonly found at its wintering ground around Colusa and areas north it certainly drew attention to birders like myself because it was an unusual sighting occurring at an unfamiliar place. So, keep noted rare observations in mind and share the news. It provides us birders lots of flights of fancy and excitement.

By Dennis Luz

Photo credits: Snowy owl - Sam Sivakumar
Steller's Sea Eagle - Alphonus Deodatus



Observations February 21, 2023 to March 20, 2023 compiled by DAVID A. HOFMANN

Species	Date/s	Location	Cty	#	Observer/s
Trumpeter Swan	02/22-03/15/23	Stony Point Road/Rohnert Park Expressway Field—Whistler Avenue	SON	1	ScC, HeA, RiC, AdC, JaB, MiD, MoF, DeH, DaA, AIH, TeF, MaB, MaL, ToC, WeD, AIR, ThS, AIW photos
Tundra Swan	02/22-03/15/23	Stony Point Road/Rohnert Park Expressway Field---Whistler Avenue	SON	1	ScC, HeA, RiC, AdC, JaB, MiD, MoF, DeH, DaA, AIH, TeF, Mab, MaL, ToC, WeD, AIR, ThS, AIW photos
Tufted Duck	03/10-17/23	Shollenberger Park	SON	1f	PeC, JeV, ScC, ToB, ReM, GaP, KrD, DWN, BreW, JoS, CoM, MaB, LiH, DoK, WiG, MoF, ThS, ScS, JeG, EuH, BoH, DaL, MaS, JoK, JoZ, EIC, ReL, LeR, AIH, DeH, MaG, SyS, CaP, BeM, AnL, ScM, RoB, LoK, NiK, DaE photos
Sooty Grouse	03/17/23	Upper King Ridge Road	SON	2m	LoK, NiK, JoS heard only
Parakeet Auklet	03/01/23	Found <u>dead</u> on Salmon Creek Beach	SON	1	fide PeP, MaS
Glaucous Gull	02/23-03/17/23	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	ScM, EuH, EIC, AIH, TeF, BreW, MoF, WiG, Ma&LuS, WeB, MiL, JiH, ScC, JoS, ScS, CoW, AIH, DeH. LoK, NoA, ToB, DaE photos
Lesser Black-backed Gull	03/03-16/23	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	NoA, DaE, WiL, AIH, DeH photos
Least Bittern	03/01-18/23	Ellis Creek WRF	SON	2	LeR, ChN, EIL, EIF, ScC
White-faced Ibis	02/22/23	Laguna—South of Occidental Road east of High School Road	SON	2	JeG photos
White-faced Ibis	03/01-16/23	Stony Point Road/Rohnert Park Expressway Field---Whistler Avenue	SON	2	AIH, TeF, MaB, AIW photos
Common Black Hawk x Red-shouldered Hawk	02/26-03/20/23	Santa Rosa Creek Trail west of Willowside Road	SON	1f	BrW, MiG, ScM, GaP, LiF photo
Lewis's Woodpecker	02/22-03/20/23	Nagasawa Community Park	SON	1	AIW, MaG, DaS photo
Red-naped Sapsucker x Red-breasted Sapsucker	03/04-3/13/23	Santa Rosa Creek Trail from Fulton Road to Willowside Road	SON	1	JoS, WiG, BrW, CoW, MoF, EuH photos
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	02/21/23	Oakwild Lane	SON	1	MoF photo

Observations February 21, 2023 to March 20, 2023 compiled by DAVID A. HOFMANN

Species	Date/s	Location	Cty	#	Observer/s
Least Flycatcher	03/02-20/23	Ellis Creek WRF	SON	1	JeV, LeR, BreW, CoM, GaP, ToB, ReM, JiH, ScM, DaL, Bo ScS, EIC, JaH, AIH, DeH, KEM ScC, Ma&LuS, LaN, MoD, JeC CoC photos
Phainopepla	03/18/23	Foothill Regional Park—Oakwood & Alta Vista Trail	SON	1m	MaG photo
Hooded Oriole	03/03/23	Santa Rosa Creek Trail west of Willowside Road	SON	1m	BrW, MoF, WiG photo
Northern Waterthrush	02/23-03/04/23	Santa Rosa Creek Trail west of Willowside Road	SON	1	BrW, GoB, MaB, WiB photos
Tennessee Warbler	03/02-08/23	Bodega Bay—Diekmann's Store	SON	1	ChD, EdH, DaE, SaL, LiH, All MaB, MeK, BoH, AnA, JiH photos

OBSERVERS FOR THIS PERIOD: Heather Anderson, Ann Ardillo, David Armstrong, Noah Arthur, Gordon Beebe, Wendy Beers, Roopak Bhatt, Malcolm Blanchard, Janet Bodle, Will Boucher, Matt Brady, Tony Briggs, Scott Carey, Tom Cho, Richard Cimino, Adam Cimino, Connor Cochrane, Peter Colasanti, Elizabeth Crouthamel, Wendy Dandridge, Michael Danner, Molly Donahue, Chris Dunford, Kris Dunlap, Daniel Edelstein, Dan Ellison, Elizabeth Ferber, Linda Fraley, Teale Fristoe, Mookie Fudemberg, Will German, Jeffer Giang, Mike Gragg, Mary Grishaver, Ed Harper, Alice Harvey, Bob Hasenick, Jack Hayden, Alex Henry, Derek Heins, Denise Herzberg, Jim Holmes, Liz Honeysett, Lisa Hug, Eugene Hunn, Logan Kahle, Don Kirker, Melani King, John King, Nick Komar, Sami LaRocca, Rebecca Lawton, William Legge, Max Leibowitz, David Leland, Elizabeth Lewis, Ann Linder, Miya Lucas, Kate E. Magoon, Renee Masotti, Becky Matsubara, Colin Meusel, Scott Morrical, Christian Naventi, David W. Nelson, Larry Nigro, Carla Parkinson, Garrett Pierce, Peter Pyle, Levi Rehberg, Alex Rinkert, The Schippers, David Schmidt, Mark Schulist, Elena Scott, Sylvie Silverstein, Scott Sorby, Martha Stafford, Mark & Lucas Stephenson, Jeff Valfer, Brian Webb, Brendon Westerhold, Alan Wight, Corrine Williams, Joseph Zeno



Tennessee Warbler, Diekmann's Bay Store, BB, photo by Bob Hasenick

Ruby-crowned Kinglet, SR Creek W of Willowside photo by Bob Hasenick

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.

Membership forms can be found at www.rros.org/join-rros

Dues can be sent to

RROS Treasurer Bob Hasenick, 4453 La Paz Lane, Santa Rosa, CA 95404-9510

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 Anne O'Donnell auodonnell@gmail.com