

# KITE TALES

A monthly newsletter from the Redwood Region Ornithological Society



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Oakwild Lane photo by Rob O'Donnell



*Next RROS Meeting  
March 8 @ 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](http://www.RROS.org).

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**SAVE THE DATE:**

March Membership Meeting: Wednesday, March 8th, 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.

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



**March Program:** “Birds and wildlife of the The Willits Bypass Mitigation Lands”  
 Marisela De Santa Anna, Project Interpreter, Willits Bypass Mitigation Lands

Located in Little Lake Valley, the Willits Bypass Mitigation Lands is the largest public wetlands restoration and mitigation project in California. Marisela De Santa Anna will Zoom us around this beautiful land.

Marisela has lived in Willits for 36 years and spent 18 of those years working as a teacher in the Willits Unified School District. She holds a degree in both biology and botany, is an active member in the Audubon Society, California Native Plant Society, and has close ties to the Willits Environmental Center. She has been involved with teaching environmental education and has led bird and wildflower hikes to thousands of kids over the years. You can follow Marisela on her blog “Observations and Ruminations” on the website at <https://mcrd.org/project/willits-bypass-mitigation>

**April Program:** Wed, April 12: Birding’s Positive Impact on Mental Health, by Frank Davis, Ph.D.

**UPCOMING RROS FIELD TRIPS & EVENTS**

We are 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, car pooling is encouraged.

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

**Saturday, March 18, 2023      Huichica Creek      Larry Kent      8:00 am - 12:00 pm**  
 Huichica Creek is a unit of the Napa-Sonoma Wildlife Area in Napa County on the border with Sonoma County. It hosts an abundance of water fowl and shorebirds. We will be led by Larry Kent, one of the top birders in Napa County and one who knows this location well.

We will meet at the parking lot at Huichica Creek at the end of Buchli Station Road (38.2147295, -122.3318977). Drive past Hudeman Slough on Ramal Road. Once in Napa County, turn right on Las Amigas Road, then right on Buchli Station Road, continue until just past the railroad tracks.

**Sunday, March 19, 2023      YAMS FT: Sonoma Valley Regional Park      8:30am - 12:30 pm**

Meet in the parking lot on Highway 12. This will be a low-key walk. We might see some early wildflowers and we will see what we can find at Dragonfly Pond. Bring lunch and layered clothes. There is a \$7 day use fee if you do not have a seasonal pass.

**Saturday, March 25, 2023 King Ridge Road near Cazadero Lisa hug 8am - 1pm**

Lisa Hug will lead us birding the remote northwestern corner of Sonoma County. In order to minimize the number of cars on this narrow road, the trip is limited to 12 people. You must RSVP. First-come, first served, with preference given to RROS members.

Meet at 8:00 am in the parking lot near the bakery in Duncans Mills (38.4530148, -123.0532010). Bring lunch/snacks, fluids, and folding chairs (for the lunch stop). No bathrooms once we start up the hill. Possible Sooty Grouse.



**Calling all volunteers!** Fabulous folks have stepped forward to take on roles with RROS, starting in September, 2023. At the April, 2023 Membership Meeting we'll vote on the following nominations:

**President:** Malcolm Blanchard **Vice President:** Bob Hasenick

**Secretary:** Annette Roth **Treasurer:** TBD

If you'd like to join the board and take on the Treasurer job, please contact President Gene Hunn.

**Other:** Bob Hasenick has volunteered to set up and **coordinate hybrid** membership meetings (contact Bob if you'd like to train to help out with future meetings). Garrett Pierce will assume **Field Trip Coordinator** responsibilities. Nancy Hunn will be our new **Membership Chair**.

We made some shifts to add a designated person to run the computer for meetings (for both 100% in person and/or for Zoomed, hybrid meetings). Check out position descriptions in By-laws online ([RROS.org](http://RROS.org)) or talk to a current Board members for more info about any positions, specifically **TREASURER** (see back page of this KT for contact info). There's lots of expertise to help train for positions starting in September. If interested, contact President Gene Hunn NOW to volunteer.

**Get WITH it, y'all!** Redwood Region Ornithological Society is now on Instagram! Garrett Pierce suggests, "Instagram is a great tool for connecting with younger birders and with other birding organizations (ABA, Audubon, etc)" and has set up a RROS Instagram account. Garrett is happy to upload any pictures, videos, or make announcements through this account on behalf of the group. Feel free to pass your favorite photos to him at [garrettallenpierce@gmail.com](mailto:garrettallenpierce@gmail.com) for posting on the RROS Instagram site. (see more owls now!)



Already have an Instagram Account? Good, go to the 'Search' eyeglass and write rrosbirds



**WELCOME NEW RROS Members!**

- Frank Davis of Berkeley
- Robert & Christine Sowers of Sebastopol
- Linda & John Sheridan Malone of Santa Rosa
- Don & Sonia Dunning of Oakland
- Paul Barnett of San Rafael
- Jessica Campbell of Piedmont

- Aspen Mayers of Kenwood
- Scott Morrical of Rohnert Park
- Karen Murad of Santa Rosa
- Laura Seidenberg of Petaluma
- Genevieve Tarino of Santa Rosa
- Brendon Westerhold of Petaluma



**THANK YOU** for recent generous donations to RROS from the following:

- Mary Grishaver in memory of Andy LaCasse
- Frank Davis
- Peter and Tracy Dellavalle

**PHOTO GALLERY:**



Yellow Bellied Sapsucker - Oakwild Lane  
photo by Malcolm Blanchard



Western Grebe Clear Lake, Lake Co.  
photo by Gerry Mugele



Lewis's Woodpecker - Nagasawa Community Park  
photo by Rob O'Donnell



Western Screech Owl - Glen Ellen photo by Gerry Mugele



Great Horned Owls - Hudeman Slough/Ringstrom Bay  
photo by Malcolm Blanchard

\*Feb-March is a good time to go owling. They're calling a lot then, setting up territories and seducing each other, but domestic bliss mostly comes later. Laying-incubating-FY-fledging comes generally earlier than most other families of birds. Sonoma BBA included 3/15-7/15 and 1/1-7/1 for Screech and Great Horned, respectively, breeding. Early fledgling dates were reported from Mar (Courtship) - Apr (Breeding) for 4 species and late fledgling dates - Aug (Attending Young).

All that indicates "breeding season" from Jan-early Aug. To make matters worse, Barns will do it at any time of year given good conditions, but mostly in the spring. March-July sounds best. (\*ref: P. Colasanti)

**Birds of a Feather Flock Together:  
Short Bios of Birders  
By BJ Blanchard**

***Bob Hasenick***

Every new birder who discovers Bob Hasenick on the trail hauling pounds of equipment, including a mysterious-looking plastic parabola, might think “what the heck?” and quietly ask others on the trail what he’s all about.

In addition to cameras and binoculars, Bob trundles recording equipment around his waist, and lugs the outer-space-like parabola: a large concave disc designed to capture faint scattered sounds like bird calls, and draw those to the center microphone. Turns out that Bob, a retired electronics guy who “loves to tinker”, has taken on the task of recording as many bird vocalizations as he can and uploading them to eBird online. Bob and his wife Carol attended a workshop in 2018 at Cornell University in upstate New York where eBird is managed. At the workshop, Bob learned to record bird discourse – songs, calls, chips, local vernaculars - and he is now Sonoma County’s premier recorder of bird vocalisms.

The quiet, self-effacing Bob Hasenick is a Michigan boy originally, having been raised on a dairy farm owned by his father and uncle. Bob knew early that he wanted to be an engineer rather than milk the herd. So, after high school at Springport High School, he attended the Naval Academy for two years before entering Michigan Tech to complete his engineer studies. Work led him to a long career at Hewlett-Packard in California, and it was here, on a kayaking trip with the Loma Prieta Paddlers, that he met Carol, his birding buddy and wife of many years now.

Birding was initially Carol’s interest, but avian activity soon enticed Bob as well, and now they bird the world together. Their daughter Kendra inherited the “birding bug” and, when based in Colombia as a Peace Corps volunteer, became involved with Colombian birding organizations. Hence, Bob and Carol were introduced to South American birding – Ecuador, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Panama, Peru, and Colombia - and may soon bird in Spain if Kendra decides to settle there for a while.

In addition to birding, Bob is also a runner, hiker, cyclist (he doesn’t bird while cycling!), and much more.

We’ve learned from RROS presentations that Bob is a photographer: his photos have been both front cover, front piece and main page of 3 Audubon Engagement calendars. In addition, his photos have won Best of Wildlife for Sierra Magazine, Best of Show at 3 county fairs AND he was a finalist in 2016 for National Geographic Birds of a Feather!!

Ask Bob about his recording equipment. He’s always happy to explain.



**OBSERVATIONS January 21, 2023 to February 20, 2023 compiled by DAVID A. HOFMANN**

Species	Date/s	Location	Cty	#	Observer/s
Trumpeter Swan	01/21-02/20/23	Rohnert Park--E.of Stony Point Road x Rohnert Park Expressway--Lowell Avenue X Washoe Creek Trail	Son	1ad	BoT, JuC, MaxB, StA, RoS, GeG, DaHu, LeR, BeD, JaH, CoW, CiR, BoA, DeL Sc&LiT, KiS, EIF, Pe&TrD, JiC, DaB, StP, CoM, BiD, HeK, WiB, NaS, AlM, DaK, AdP, AuG, DoK, DaB, AlW, DaS, LaN, MaW, DaL, BoH, ElG, MoD, ChR, DaB, ScM, DaE, ErP, MaB, JoSt, StL, La&IvM, DoS, JeV, ScS, MiH, HeA, KrD, DWN, LeB, ReO, MaG, BaK, PrM, RaL, MiS, WeB, AaN, LoR, DaB, MiC, FrO, MiS, DAH, GaD, JoH photos
Tundra Swan	01/21-02/20/23	Rohnert Park--E.of Stony Point Road x Rohnert Park Expressway—Lowell Avenue X Washoe Creek Trail	Son	1im	MaxB, StA, RoS, GeG, LeR, BeD, JaH, CoW, CiR, DeL, KiS, EIF, DaB, CoM, WiB, NaS, AlM, DaK, AdP, DoK, DaB, AlW, DaS, LaN, MaW, DaL, BoH, ElG, MoD, ChR, DaB, ScM, DaE, ErP, JoSt, StL, DoS, JeV, La&IvM, ScS, MiH, KrD, DWN, LeB, ReO, MaG, BaK, PrM, RaL, MiS, WeB, AaN, LoR, DaB, MiC, FrO, MiS, DAH, GaD, JoH photos
Barrow's Goldeneye	1/21/23	Port Sonoma	Son	1m	MoF, WiG
Sooty Grouse	2/18/23	Upper King Ridge Road	Son	1	JoS heard only
Pacific Golden Plover	1/22/23	San Pablo Bay NWR - Tubbs Island	Son	1	EuH
Lesser Black-backed Gull	2/10-2/17/23	Shollenberger Park	Son	1	NoA
Glaucous Gull	02/05/23	Ellis Creek WRF	Son	1	BreW photos
Glaucous Gull	02/10-02/20/23	Shollenberger Park	Son	1	NoA, WeB, ScM, RoS, JeV, JoS, LiH, CIR, BeP, CoB, YAMS, MaB, LeR photos
Least Bittern	01/22-2/19/23	Ellis Creek WRF	Son	1	EIC, JoS, TiE, LiH, LyP, JoB, LeR, LiH, BeP, JeV, CIR, APP, YAMS
White-faced Ibis	1/28-2/11/23	Santa Rosa Creek Trail/Delta Pond west of Willowside Road	Son	2	BrW, LiF photos
White-faced Ibis	2/17-2/20/23	Laguna north of Occidental Rd	Son	2	TiE, GaP, EuH, MoF, DeH, WiG, DoK, BoT, JuC, BrW photos
Common Black Hawk x Red-shouldered Hawk	01/21-02/20/23	Santa Rosa Creek Trail/Delta Pond west of Willowside Road	Son	1f	BrW, JoS, Sc&LiT, BoT, JuC, ScM, KEM, EuH, ReL, AnL photos
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1/21-1/28/23	2000-2086 Oakwild Lane	Son	1	BoT, JuC, JaH, Sc&LiT, JeV, LeQ, LiP, ScC, AdP, LaN, MoD, GaP, MaG, RoO, EuH, BaK, AnO, MaB, La&IvM, EIF, NaO photos
Lewis's Woodpecker	1/21-2/20/23	Nagasawa Community Park	Son	1	JaH, KiS, JoS, JeV, DoK, GaP, AlW, LiH, LiR, JiG, DaS, KeW, ReO, EuH, RoO, AnO, ScC, CoW, ScS, GrM, WeB, Bot, JuC photos

Species	Date/s	Location	Cty	#	Observer/s
Bank Swallow	2/11/23	Hudeman Slough	Son	1	EIC Photos
American Dipper	1/22/23	Dutch Bill Creek	Son	1	RuS photos
Evening Grosbeak	2/16/23	Guerneville—Riverside Dr. yard	Son	1	ScC heard only
Nelson's Sparrow	01/04-02/18/23	San Pablo Bay NWR—Tubbs Island	Son	1	DaN, LiH, EuH, JuB, JeG photos
Northern Waterthrush	01/21-02/17/23	Santa Rosa Creek Trail/Delta Pond west of Willowside Road	Son	1	Sc&LiT, BoT, JuC, JoS, BrW, LiF, ChN, LaN, MoD, AlW, MaG, ScM, BaK, RoO, AnO, BoH, DoK, Elf, La&IvM, DaL, BrW, MaB, WiG, MoF, BrD, MiG, RiS, ScS, RoP, EuH photos & recorded
Tennessee Warbler	01/22-02/17/23	Bodega Bay—Diekmann's Store	Son	1	BrO, MaG, AlW, KjW, GaP, MoF, La&IvM, CoW, BrW, RiH, SuG, EIL ReO, KeW, JeV, AIS, ScC, EuH photos
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	02/14/23	Sebastopol—Ragle Road yard	Son	1m	MaD photos

## OBSERVERS FOR THIS PERIOD:

Heather Anderson, Stuart Angerer, Noah Arthur, Bob Atwood, Dana Bangs, Cody Barnes, Dave Barry, Leonie Batkin, Wendy Beers, Dave Bengston, Max Benningfield, Malcolm Blanchard, Will Boucher, Jonathan Brody, Junco Bullick, Scott Carey, Juli Chamberlin, Elizabeth Crouthamel, Jim Crumpler, Mike Curry, Brad Davis, Ben DeDominic, Gary Deghi, Peter & Tracy Dellavalle, Mathew Densmore, Molly Donahue, Bill Doyle, Kris Dunlap, Daniel Edelstein, Tiffany Erickson, Elizabeth Ferber, Linda Fraley, Mookie Fudenberg, Will German, Jeffer Giang, Audrey Glazier, Susan Goodrich, Mike Gragg, George Griffeth, Mary Grishaver, Eli Gross, Lee Guichan, Mike Hall, John Harris, Bob Hasenick, Denise Herzberg, David A. Hofmann, James Holmes, Rich Howard, David Hudson, Lisa Hug, Eugene Hunn, Dan Kadra, Barbara Kendrick, Donald Kirker, Helen Kockenderfer, Andrew Larson, Rachel Lawrence, Rebecca Lawton, Derek Lecy, David Leland, Stephanie Levins, Elizabeth Lewis, David Lumpkin, Kate E Magoon, Larry & Iva Maurin, Alex Merritt, Colin Meusel, Grady Moosman, Scott Morrical, Preston Mui, Christian Naventi, Dan Nelson, David W. Nelson, Aaron Ng, Larry Nigro, Brook O'Connor, Nathan O'Dell, Anne O'Donnell, Rob O'Donnell, Frances Oliver, Rebecca Olsen, Adam Panto, Aubrey Phipps-Parnay, Lynn Perry, Erv Peterson, Linda Petruvias, Beatrice Pezzolo, Steve Pierce, Garrett Pierce, Ron Pozzi, Loren Raymond, Levi Rehberg, Christopher Reiger, Cindy Roach, Linda Rosenberg, Clayton Rucker, David Schmidt, Richard Schoellhorn, Doug Shaw, Ruth Shirley, Alex Single, Nathan Smale, Josh Snead, Scott Sorby, Michael Spencer, Joshua Stacy, Michael Stanley, Robert Stevenson, Ron Storey, Kirk Swenson, Scott & Linda Terrill, Bob Toleno, Jeff Valfer, Kjell Wallin, Brian Webb, Brendon Westerhold, Alan Wight, Corrine Williams, Ken Wilson, Marie Witt, Young Ancient Murrelets

## 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 2nd 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](http://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](http://www.RROS.org)

## RROS STAFF

### OFFICERS

President: Eugene Hunn .....enhunn323@comcast.net // 707-981-7301  
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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\*\*](mailto:auodonnell@gmail.com)