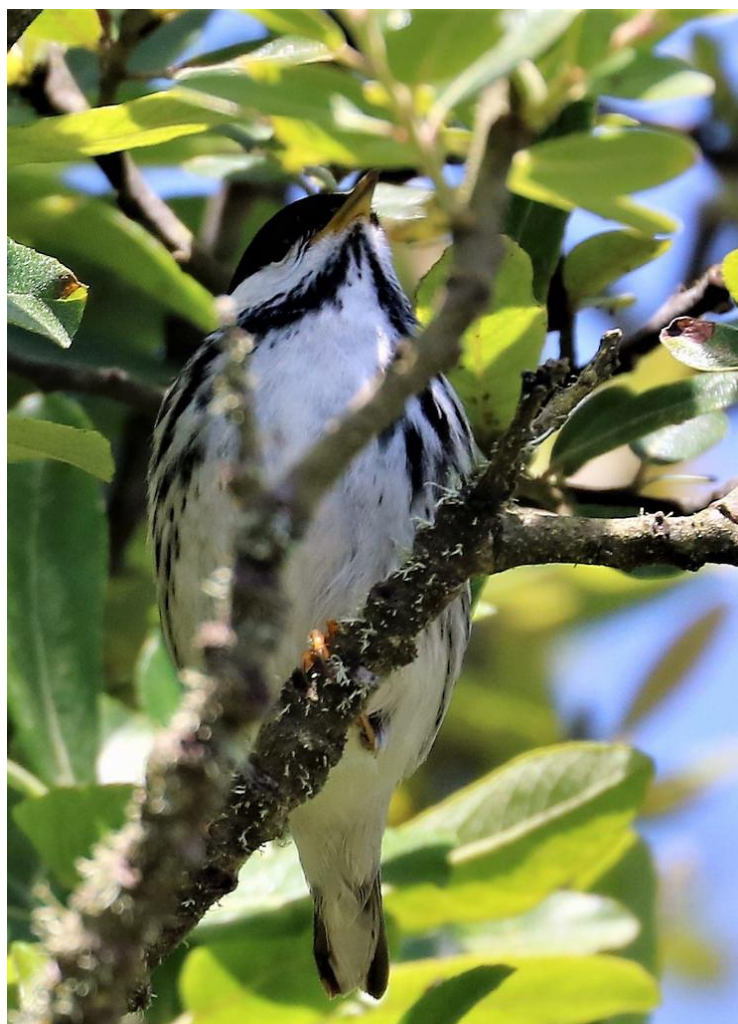




# Kite Tales

**Volume 53, Number 3**

**November 2017**



**Blackpoll Warbler, Owl Canyon  
Courtesy of David A. Hofmann**

**Next RRROS General Meeting  
November 8th, 7 pm**

**Monthly Meeting, Weds, November 8, 2017, 7pm:** Mario Balitbit of Bird Rescue Center will describe his recent trip to Germany. He will also tell us about the work of the Bird Rescue Center.

**Save the date: Weds, December 13, 2017, 7pm:** Member's media night. Bring your art, photos, videos and other examples of your creativity.

### **UPCOMING RROS FIELD TRIPS & EVENTS**

**Sunday, November 12, Central Valley.** Leader: Ruthie Rudesill ([707-833-6026](tel:707-833-6026), cell [707-481-0768](tel:707-481-0768), [ruthier@sonic.net](mailto:ruthier@sonic.net)), Meet at Calistoga Rd Safeway parking lot Santa Rosa at 7am. We will head over the hill to Middletown maybe stop on the way then to Colusa county drive some mountain roads then end up at Refuge. Bring lunch, layers, etc Heavy rain cancels.

**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, Santa Rosa CBC.** Leader: Bill Doyle ([shortbill@comcast.net](mailto:shortbill@comcast.net)) The compilation dinner will be held, again, at Adel's Restaurant, in the back room, starting at 5:00 pm. See you there!

**Saturday, January 13, Bahia & Rush Creek.** Leader: Jim White ([jimwhitebbs@gmail.com](mailto:jimwhitebbs@gmail.com)). Get your year list growing. Meet at Bahia at 8:30 am to mid-afternoon to view the tidal wetlands, recently restored by the Marin Audubon Society, some oak woodlands, the Horseshoe pond, the Rush Creek area and the airport ponds. Many ducks, including Hooded Mergansers and Barrows Goldeneyes, and shorebirds utilize the area in the winter.

Directions; From 101 in northern Novato take Atherton Avenue East, in about half a mile, left turn onto Bugea which becomes Bahia and follow it parking near it's east end. Sorry no rest rooms or donut shops. Dress well and bring a lunch.

If you have ideas of trips that you would like to lead or trips that you'd like to take, please provide those to Monica at [fieldsketcher@gmail.com](mailto:fieldsketcher@gmail.com)

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### **Be a Young Ancient Murrelet (YAM) for Redwood Region Ornithological Society**

YAMS are looking for more members to join our Youth Birding Club. YAMS are between the ages of 10 and 18. We go on weekend field trips in the North Bay area. We have lots of fun. In addition to going on field trips, YAMS write articles for the Kite Tales newsletter, take photographs, make drawings, or write poetry. Individual creativity is encouraged. A young person can become a YAM for \$5, and this gives the new YAM and his/her family an annual RROS membership which includes field trips, monthly meetings with guest speakers, a monthly newsletter, and a chance to participate in the annual Santa Rosa Christmas Bird Count.

Lisa Hug, Coordinator for the Young Ancient Murrelets (alias YAMS)

RROS welcomes the following new members:  
Jared Dawson, Scott Carey and Melissa Witte

Observations	Sept 21 to Oct 20, 2017		Compiled by David A. Hofmann		
Species	Dates	Location	Cty	#	Observer(s)
Cackling Goose	10/18	Hwy 116 x Hwy 1	SON	43	DaB
Grtr Wht-fronted Goose	09/27	Doran Regional Park	SON	18	DAH
Grtr Wht-fronted Goose	10/01	Bay Hill Road	SON	41	JeM, DoK, RAR, mob
Grtr Wht-fronted Goose	10/07	Bodega Bay area	SON	1300	LiH, mob
Blue-winged Teal	10/19	Carmody Road pond	SON	1f	AlW
Red-necked Grebe	10/19	Bodega harbor	SON	3	AlW
<b>Brown Booby</b>	10/07	Sea Ranch/Del Mar Pt	SON	1	DiH, mob
<b>Laysan Albatross</b>	10/15	Pelagic trip/RRROS	SON	1	EuH, mob
<b>Short-taild Shearwater</b>	10/15	Pelagic trip/RRROS	SON	1	StH, EuH, mob
<b>Broad-winged Hawk</b>	09/29	Bay Hill Road	SON	2im	DaN, ToB, ReM
<b>Broad-winged Hawk</b>	09/29	Campbell Cove St. Bch	SON	1	SuG, MaF, MaK
<b>Broad-winged Hawk</b>	10/13	North of Mill Gulch	SON	1	JeM
<b>Broad-winged Hawk</b>	10/15	Stony Pt.Rd/W. Railrd	SON	1	JaD
<b>Broad-winged Hawk</b>	10/18	Ramal Road	SON	1	AlW
<b>Swainson's Hawk</b>	10/07	Bay Hill Road	SON	1	RAR, DoK
Ferruginous Hawk	09/30	Bay Hill Road	SON	1juv	BeO, KeW, RoK
Ferruginous Hawk	09/30	Bodega	SON	1ad	ChC
Ferruginous Hawk	10/03	Bay Hill Road	SON	1	JeM, DAH
Ferruginous Hawk	10/13	Bay Hill Road	SON	1	JaD
Ferruginous Hawk	10/15	Bodega harbor	SON	1	KeW, BeO
Ferruginous Hawk	10/18	Jenner Headlands	SON	1	DaB, mob
Ferruginous Hawk	10/19	N Middle Two Rock Rd	SON	1	AlW
Rough-legged Hawk	10/07	Bay Hill Road	SON	1	RAR, DoK
Merlin	10/01	Jenner Headlands	SON	3	LaB, mob
Merlin	10/02	Spring Lake Reg. Park	SON	1	RoO, AnO
Merlin	10/06	Bay Hill Road	SON	1	DaN, DAH
Merlin	10/18	Jenner Headlands	SON	5	DaB, mob
Merlin	10/20	Santa Rosa Ck Trail	SON	1	BiD, HeK, MoF, DeH
<b>Prairie Falcon</b>	10/02	Stony Point Road yard	SON	1	WeD
<b>Prairie Falcon</b>	10/15	Bodega harbor	SON	1	KeW, BeO
<b>Prairie Falcon</b>	10/18	Skagg's Island Road	SON	1	AlW
<b>Black-tailed Gull</b>	09/24	Bodega harbor	SON	1	WiA, <b>Unconfirmed</b>
<b>Tufted Puffin</b>	10/15	Pelagic trip/RRROS	SON	1	EuH, mob
<b>Long-eared Owl</b>	10/16	Lower Kohlem Trail	SON	3	EuH, NaH Br&OrO
<b>Eastern Phoebe</b>	09/24	Doran Regional Park	SON	1	BoT, <b>Unconfirmed</b>
<b>Tropical Kingbird</b>	09/27	Bodega Bay Com. Ctr	SON	1	PhH
<b>Northern Parula</b>	09/26	Spring Lake Reg. Park	SON	1	JoT
<b>Palm Warbler</b>	09/27	Galvin Park	SON	1	WiA
<b>Palm Warbler</b>	10/06	Stony Point Road yard	SON	1	WeD
<b>Clay-colored Sparrow</b>	10/03	Campbell Cove St. Bch	SON	1	DeF
<b>Vesper Sparrow</b>	10/19	Lynch Creek Trail	SON	1	EuH
<b>Lapland Longspur</b>	09/27	Gualala Pt. Reg. Park	SON	1	KeU
<b>Lapland Longspur</b>	10/08	Laguna de Santa Rosa	SON	1	LuS, LiH, YAM

**Observer/s for this period:** Will Anderson, Mario Balitbit, Dave Barry, Tony Briggs, Larry Broderick, Chris Conard, Wendy Dandridge, Jared Dawson, Bill Doyle, Marjorie Fletcher, Dea Freid, Mookie Fudemberg, Susan Greef, Phil Henderson, Denise Herzberg, Diane Hichwa, David A. Hofmann, Lisa Hug, Eugene Hunn, Nancy Hunn, Don Kirker, Marilyn Kinch, Helen Kochenderfer,

Renee Masotti, Jeff Miller, Dan Nelson, Brooke & Orion Oconnor, Anne O'Donnell, Rob O'Donnell, Becky Olsen, Ruth Ann Rudesill, Lucas Stephenson, John Toldi, Bob Toleno, Ken-ichi Ueda, Alan Wight, Ken Wilson, Young Ancient Murrelets

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**PISHING WITH PARMETER**  
**RROS - 1980-81**

Our first meeting was a potluck dinner held at the home of Deyea and Jack Harper. Officers for the new year were: President - Betty Burrige, Vice pres. - Doug Ellis, Secretary - Deyea Harper, Treasurer - Ellen Falconer, Field Trips - Mike Parmeter, Kite Tales Editor - Kathy Mugele.

October field trips included a trip to the Cordell Banks on the 19th. Highlights included Northern Fulmar, Pink-footed Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, Ashy Storm Petrel, Red Phalarope, Pomarine Jaeger, Skua, Xantu's Murrelet, Cassin's Auklet, and Rhinoceros Auklet. Also seen were Humpback Whales and Dall's Porpoise. Oct. 13 Betty Burrige led a trip to Bodega Bay. Best birds: White-winged Scoter, Black Scoter, Virginia Rail, Sora, Wandering Tattler, American Avocet, Northern Phalarope (now Red-necked), Bonaparte's Gull, Heerrman's Gull, Forster's Tern, Swainson's Hawk (late), and American Redstart. A report of a survey for Snowy Plovers on the west coast showed Limantour Spit with 127 birds, Salmon Creek Beach 55, and Bodega Bay Spit (Doran Park) 71. A total for all areas equaled 382 birds. Betty Burrige also led a trip to Point Reyes. Observations included: White-winged Scoter, Ferruginous Hawk, Northern Phalarope, Great Horned Owl, Horned Lark, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Hermit Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, American Redstart, and Tricolored Blackbird. Several other good birds seen in Sept/Oct in the county: Wood Duck, Redhead Duck, Red Knot, Poorwill, North American Dipper, and Palm Warbler.

A Nov. 15 trip to Willow Creek, led by Doug Ellis, turned up these best sightings: White-winged Scoter, Virginia Rail, Pygmy Owl, Spotted Owl, Long-eared Owl, Saw-whet Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, and Red-breasted Nuthatch.

Our December program was a quiz identifying species from the Sonoma State Museum, set out by Dr. John Arnold. The annual Santa Rosa Christmas Count took place on Dec. 21, and was compiled by Gerry Mugele, showing 141 species. Other observations during Nov.-Dec. included: Rohnert Park Sewer Ponds - 3 Snow Geese, a Harlequin Duck at Ft. Ross, a Costa's Hummer returned to the feeder at Clarence Wolcott's home 7/1 thru 11/15, a Prairie Warbler at Diekmann's store 11/12, 2 Palm Warblers at Ft. Ross, and a Baltimore Oriole at the Rail Ponds.

A January field trip to Thornton on 11/10 was a great success. Highlights: Whistling Swan, White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, both dowitchers, Burrowing Owl, and Varied Thrush.

Feb. observations included Fulmars off Bodega Head. Several sightings of Whistling Swans, and several Ross Geese were reported. Blue-winged Teal and Rough-legged Hawk at Sears Point and Estero Lane. A flock of 50 Ruddy Turnstones at Bodega Harbor 1/18. 4 Rock Sandpipers at Bodega Head 1/18, as well as several Red Phalaropes. Black-and-white Warbler at Russian Gulch 2/27, 3 White-throated Swifts at Russian Gulch 2/22, 2 Rufous-crowned Sparrows were singing on lower Willow Creek Road 2/22, and a Common Merganser was seen at Fountain Grove 2/28.

The March program was given by Peter Leveque and included slides of Sapsucker Woods and vicinity. The annual trip to Honey Lake was scheduled 3/13,14, and 15. Best birds: Sandhill Crane, Lewis' Woodpecker, Mountain Bluebird, Evening Grosbeak, Sage Grouse, White-headed Woodpecker, Black-billed Magpie, Cassin's Finch, and Red Crossbill. Other March observations: Laysan Albatross, Flesh-footed Shearwater, and Short-tailed Shearwater at the Cordell Banks, Blue-winged Teal on lower Willow Creek Rd., and a North American Dipper seen carrying nesting material at Kidd Creek 3/20.

As usual, our last meeting of the year was held at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park.

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## New Column – What is that Species??

This page was prompted by two activities.

- 1) Reading Ken Kaufman's *Field Guide to Advanced Birding*. I recall his humbleness in recanting stories of certainty and later retraction for species ID. Ken states on Page 13: "I caught myself in several awful mistakes, situations in which I had completely miscalled birds with no good excuse, and gradually learned to put on the brakes and exercise more caution in these quick calls." As a rookie so I have many retractions and little certainty.
- 2) Participating in a Pt Reyes field trip with RROS about a month ago. Many birders were looking under the trees on the path from the parking lot to the lighthouse visitor center. When I approached, I heard much discussion about whether the bird in question was 1 of 2 species. Most of the birders were quite experienced, so they were comparing notes on field marks, behavior and likely species with little declaration of certainty. Here is a picture of that bird. I learned that identifying birds has many "gray & brown areas" and uncertainty. I'll let you consider the picture and which species.



### Part 2

So, to add a little variety to KT, I've posted pictures below and ask our members to identify the species. Please consider which species you think is in each photo and send me your list using image number; I'll post the responses in Dec KT. If uncertain about any one, feel free to include 3 possible picks. Hint: Location indicated for each. Let me know if you like this idea and I'll ask members to submit pictures for consideration in future KT's.



1. Oceania



2. Ecuador



3. Europe

**Photo Gallery by David A. Hofmann**



**Black Oystercatchers  
Bodega Head State Park**



**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
Campbell Cove State Beach**



**Northern Harrier, immature  
Campbell Cove State Beach**



**Red-tailed Hawk, immature  
Bay Hill Road**



**Brown Creeper  
Santa Rosa Creek Trail**



**Western Bluebird  
Campbell Cove State Beach**



**Photo Gallery by Tom Reynolds**



**Barn Swallow**



**Cedar Waxwing, juvenile**

**Spring Lake**



**Mink  
Spring Lake**



**Sea Otter  
Moss Landing**

**To RROS Photographers:** Please submit images to Bob H for inclusion in the Gallery, using common file formats with file size between 350KB and 5MB. Please ID species.

Also, send your rarities to Ron Storey to be shared on:  
<http://rros.org/HTML/RareBirdPhotos.htm>

**Redwood Region Ornithological Society** ([www.rros.org](http://www.rros.org)) 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 7:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church, 1515 Montgomery Dr, Santa Rosa. Sept and May meetings are held outside at 5:30. Dues are \$20 per individual or family, and \$5 per student for a one-year membership. Send dues to RROS Treas. Rob O'Donnell, 421 St. Mary Place, Santa Rosa, CA 95409

RROS Staff					
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	Observations	David Hofmann	2021 Pioneer Wy #47, Santa Rosa 95403	<a href="mailto:nnamfoh@comcast.net">nnamfoh@comcast.net</a>	546-0325
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**Kite Tales Deadline is the 20th:** Submit observations to David Hofmann and other items to Bob Hasenick.

**KITE TALES**  
**421 St. Mary Place**  
**Santa Rosa, CA 95409**

