



# Kite Tales

**Volume 53, Number 1**

**September 2017**



***South Polar Skua  
Cordell Bank  
RROS pelagic 8/20/17  
by Alan Wight***

**Monthly Meeting, Wednesday, September 13, 2017 Annual Spring Potluck:** Meet at the picnic tables across from the main parking lot, at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park, Kenwood, at 5:30 pm. From Hwy 12, take Adobe Canyon Rd, a few miles southeast of Oakmont. Follow Adobe Canyon Rd to its end at the park. Main parking lot is on the left, just past the entrance kiosk (there is a parking fee.)

**Save the date: Wednesday, October 11, 2017:** Monthly Meeting: October 11, 2017

Bird Language

Peter Bergen of Nature Connection will raise our awareness and sharpen our skills in interpreting the sounds and silences of nature. Bird Language is an ancestral skill that people have used to survive and thrive for thousands of years. As Joe Ellis, NAS Board member remarked after his initial Bird Language experience, "Birds talk to each other. We can understand it. And it's fun."

Come join the fun.

The following Saturday, October 14, 2017 Peter will lead a Field Trip/Bird Sit to experience and practice techniques covered in the presentation. Details will be in October Field Trip section.

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

Saturday, September 9, 2017 Bodega Bay

Meet: 8:00 to 8:30 at Owl Canyon. Location: Westshore Rd., Bodega Bay (the road that runs along Bodega Harbor--although this section appears on Google Maps as Westside Rd.)

between Gaffney Point and Campbell Cove (Owl Canyon is on the right--inland--when coming from the town of Bodega Bay, heading for Campbell Cove or Bodega Head, with the water on your left).

Bring: layers, lunch, bins, sunscreen, scope etc.

Leader: Peter Colasanti 707 780-7296

Saturday Sept 23, 2017 Field Trip to outer Pt Reyes for vagrants

Meet: 7:25 am at the Petaluma Park N Ride at Lakeview Hwy x 101

Meet: 8:00 am at Whitehouse Pool parking lot on Sir Francis Drake then heading towards Lighthouse

Bring: layers, lunch, bins, sunscreen, scope etc.

Leader: Ruthie Rudesill 707-833-6026 cell 707-481-0768 [ruthier@sonic.net](mailto:ruthier@sonic.net)

Saturday, October 14th Bird Language

Leader/Presenter: Peter Bergen

Details in October newsletter

### **OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS**

**RROS Pelagic Trips, all on Sundays:** All aboard the *New Sea Angler* (Rick Powers, captain) out of Porto Bodega: September 10 (on our own), and October 8 (with Alvaro, if he can join us). The fee this year will be \$150 for members, \$160 for non-members (to include a discounted annual membership in RROS). To reserve a spot on any or all of these trips, send a post-dated check (using the date of the trip or trips desired) to Gene Hunn (at 1504 Smokey Mtn. Dr, Petaluma, CA 94954) made out to Rob O'Donnell (RROS treasurer). Please indicate the date of the trip desired. Send a separate check for each trip.

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)

**The RROS long-weekend field trip to Inyo and Mono Counties, June 9-11 2017 (Gene Hunn's account):**

Nineteen intrepid RROS birders made the trip, driving over Thursday, some detouring to chase a reported errant Bobolink (Alpine County, no luck there) and Least Flycatcher (Topaz Lake, Mono County, Yes!) en route. We all sat down to dinner at the Amigos Mexican restaurant in Bishop (very efficient and tasty service). Most stayed in Bishop at motels, though five of us opted to rough-it at the Pleasant Valley Inyo County campground, which was not always pleasant, especially Friday night from midnight until maybe 3 AM due to rowdy parties (not by us). The campground, though a bit buggy, hosted calling Virginia Rails, Common Nighthawks, Rock Wrens, Song Sparrows, and a Yellow-breasted Chat.

Friday morning we met our Inyo County guide, Susan Steele, checked the local city park (Red-shouldered Hawk and Downy Woodpecker amongst the mallardoids, crows, and House Sparrows), stocked up on pastries and coffee at Schat's Bakkerij, before heading south and east through Big Pine and over Westgard Pass to Deep Springs College, where we had permission to bird the fields and ponds (Swainson's and Red-tailed Hawks, nesting Great Horned Owls, Costa's Hummingbirds, and Cassin's Kingbirds, plus a straggler from further south, a **White-winged Dove**). (To protect the college community from harassment by eager listers, we were cautioned to not post our sightings on e-bird, leaving that to Susan after an appropriate period off-line.) We had baby coots, several Eared Grebes, and a Northern Shoveler on the ponds at this desert oasis. Other finds near and above Westgard Pass in the sage, piñon and juniper woodland (for lunch), and bristle-cone pine forests (at 10,000 feet) included Black-throated Sparrows, Rock Wrens, Juniper Titmice (adults attending a nest), Plumbeous Vireos, Woodhouse's Scrub-Jays, Clark's Nutcrackers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Black-throated Gray Warblers, plus a flock of Piñon Jays on our way back to Big Pine. Also, lots of fascinating wildflowers, including *Calochortus bruneanus*, a.k.a. "Sego Lily."

To escape the afternoon heat we retired to Susan's place up Bishop Canyon at Aspendell at a refreshingly cool 8500 feet elevation amongst the quaking aspens where we enjoyed close encounters with Gray-crowned Rosy- and Cassin's Finches at her feeders. We then dispersed for dinner and an early bedtime in preparation for Saturday morning's commute back up US 395 to Lee Vining.

At 7:30 sharp we met our Saturday guide, Nora Livingston, Mono Lake Committee naturalist, in Lee Vining and opted for the long drive southeast to Wild Rose Canyon in hopes of finding a rarity or two or three. En route we stopped at the Mono Mills historic site and fanned out through the Jeffrey Pines in search of Gray Flycatchers (heard and spotted in the distance). A male Williamson's Sapsucker hiding in a pine crown was a bonus. Also noted here were Western Wood-Pewees, White-breasted Nuthatches (the interior form), Western Tanagers, singing Audubon's Warblers (still "Yellow-rumped" for now), Chipping Sparrows, and close views of several elusive Piñon Jays.

Wild Rose Canyon did not disappoint. After a rather rough steep hike we had excellent (if at times brief and tantalizing) views of a nesting Long-eared Owl, male Calliope Hummingbirds, nesting Red-breasted Sapsuckers and Hairy Woodpeckers, singing Lazuli Buntings, Dusky Flycatchers, Warbling and Plumbeous Vireos, Brewer's Sparrows, Lawrence's Goldfinches (a surprise), and MacGillivray's, Wilson's, Orange-crowned, and Yellow Warblers. But what we thought was the prized Virginia's Warbler singing hidden in a leafy aspen proved after considerable effort (and Rick's photo) to be a vagrant TENNESSEE WARBLER. We retired for lunch in the shade at Benton Springs, serenaded by Bullock's Orioles plus a glimpse of a Willow Flycatcher and a Great-tailed Grackle.

We were back at Mono Lake in the early afternoon at the South Tufa rest stop in the sage steppe where we had brief glimpses of the Sagebrush Sparrow and rather better looks at Sage Thrashers and Gray Flycatchers (out in the open sage flats). The wind kicked up, but we still needed the Dipper up Lee Vining Creek, which we did locate, thank you. Further up the canyon Hunn got all excited to spot an American Robin, but was informed that that was nothing new. A Fox Sparrow and close views of Green-tailed Towhees were of greater note. We thanked Nora for her expert guidance and promised to support the Mono Lake Committee however we might in future.

Sunday morning dawned chilly and breezy. We met at the Green Church for prayers, then drove east on the Benton Crossing Road to Levey Springs (a wild flower garden and a pool with water warm enough for a swim, but nobody was tempted given the frigid wind) and the Crowley Lake shoreline. Highlights here: ducks such as Gadwalls, American Wigeons, Cinnamon Teals, and a Northern Pintail, plus American Avocets, two Wilson's Phalaropes, and a single Ring-billed Gull amongst the Californias. Also, a flock of American White Pelicans, a Western Grebe out amongst the white-caps, a close fly-by Prairie Falcon, high-flying White-throated Swifts, and a Bank Swallow or two with the swarms of Cliff and Violet-green Swallows, the Bank Swallows no doubt foraging out from their colony, visible on the chalk cliffs way off across the lake.

We headed north on Owens River Road but Hunn took two wrong turns and ended up quite by accident at the Hot Springs Geyser Geological Point-of-Interest overlook where we found a family of Canyon Wrens. Whoopie! Then north to the Mono Lake visitor center (a House Wren here was feeding its young in a recycled Cliff Swallow nest under the eaves of the building) and then the County Park for lunch and a view of the nesting Ospreys. Then, it started to snow! We decided to call it a trip and each went our separate ways. (I was able to add only a Caspian Tern and four Common Mergansers on wind-tossed Bridgeport Reservoir).

All told, it was an exciting, if somewhat daunting expedition. Many new county birds for Ruthie and three lifers for birthday-boy Norm. Thanks again to our guides and the Deep Springs College administration. And we hope Don and Shirley fully recover from their injuries.

I counted 128 species spotted by one or another or all of us for the trip.

Observations		April 21, 2017-August 20, 2017		Compiled by David A. Hofmann		
Species	Dates	Location	Cty	#	Observer(s)	
Cackling Goose (Aleutian)	04/28/17	Bodega harbor	SON	1	DaS, LiH, HoT	
Cackling Goose	08/03-10/17	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	LiH, AlW	
Brant	07/07/17	Doran Regional Park	SON	1	CSW	
Blue-winged Teal	04/22/17	Willowbrook Crt Pond	SON	1m	WiA, ScS, GaT	
Green-winged Teal	08/01/17	Shollenberger Park	SON	1m	MaB	
Ring-necked Duck	05/20/17	Washington School Rd	SON	1m	LuC	
Canvasback	04/22/17	Bodega harbor	SON	1m	WiA, ScS, GaT	
White-winged Scoter	04/22/17	Russian River / Jenner	SON	1m	WiA, ScS, GaT	
White-winged Scoter	04/22/17	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	1m	WiA, ScS, GaT	
Cackling Goose (Aleutian)	04/28/17	Bodega harbor	SON	1	DaS, LiH, HoT	
Cackling Goose	08/03-10/17	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	LiH, AlW	
Brant	07/07/17	Doran Regional Park	SON	1	CSW	
Black Scoter	04/22/17	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	1	WiA, ScS, GaT	
Bufflehead	07/13-8/03/17	Laguna Water Treatment Plant	SON	1f	LiH	
Common Goldeneye	04/29/17	Russian River / Jenner	SON	13	WiR, GrS, BrO	
Common Goldeneye	06/28-08/17/17	Shollenberger Park	SON	1f	RoO, MaB, RoS, MoF, Je&EvV, WiB, mob	
<b>Laysan Albatross</b>	08/20/17	Pelagic trip/RROS	SON	2	EuH, AlJ, JeM, RoS, BDP, MaB, JaS, mob	
Northern Fulmar	08/20/17	Pelagic trip/RROS	SON	6	EuH, AlJ, JeM, RoS, BDP, MaB, JaS, mob	
<b>Wilson's Storm-Petrel</b>	08/20/17	Pelagic trip/RROS	SON	2	EuH, AlJ, JeM, RoS, BDP, MaB, JaS, mob	
<b>Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel</b>	05/09-17/17	Doran Regional Park	SON	4	LiH, ScC, RoO, DeF, PaS, WiG, DaB, mob	
<b>Brown Booby</b>	08/20/17	Pelagic trip/RROS	SON	1	LuS, EuH, AlJ, JeM, RoS, MaB, JaS, mob	
Black Scoter	04/22/17	Bodega Head State Pk	SON	1	WiA, ScS, GaT	
Bufflehead	07/13-8/03/17	Laguna Water Treatment Plant	SON	1f	LiH	
Common Goldeneye	04/29/17	Russian River / Jenner	SON	13	WiR, GrS, BrO	
Common Goldeneye	06/28-08/17/17	Shollenberger Park	SON	1f	RoO, MaB, RoS, MoF, Je&EvV, WiB, mob	
<b>Brown Booby</b>	08/20/17	Pelagic trip/RROS	SON	1	LuS, EuH, AlJ, JeM, RoS, MaB, JaS, mob	
<b>White-faced Ibis</b>	05/18/17	Gardener Ave ball fields	SON	8	BiD	
<b>Swainson's Hawk</b>	06/09/17	Lakeville Rd	SON	1	DaB	
<b>Prairie Falcon</b>	08/01/17	Reclamation Road	SON	1	SuK	
<b>Pacific Golden Plover</b>	08/14/17	Reclamation Road	SON	1	MaB	

<b>Semipalmated Sandpiper</b>	08/18-19/17	Bodega Farm Pond	SON	1	EuH, JeM
Dunlin	07/03/17	Shollenberger Park	SON	12	ScS
Wilson's Phalarope	04/09/17	Doran Reg. Park	SON	1	LiH
Wilson's Phalarope	06/04/17	Shollenberger Park	SON	4	PeC
<b>South Polar Skua</b>	08/20/17	Pelagic trip/RRS	SON	2	EuH, AlJ, JeM, RoS, BDP, MaB, JaS, mob
<b>Elegant Tern</b>	05/10/17	Bodega harbor	SON	3	BrO
<b>Arctic Tern</b>	07/01/17	Bird Walk Coastal Acc	SON	1	BrO
<b>Ancient Murrelet</b>	07/22/17	Doran Regional Park	SON	1	MaS, LuS, DoH
<b>Tufted Puffin</b>	08/20/17	Pelagic trip	SON	4	EuH, AlJ, JeM, RoS, BDP, MaB, JaS, mob
<b>Barred Owl</b>	06/09/17	Gualala Redwoods Park	SON	2	ErS heard only
<b>Short-eared Owl</b>	06/29/17	Bodega Harbor yard	SON	1	BrO heard only
<b>Short-eared Owl</b>	07/04/17	Bodega Harbor North	SON	1f	BrO, OrO
<b>Common Nighthawk</b>	06/10/17	7864 Elphick Rd/Pet.	SON	1	SuW
<b>Dusky Flycatcher</b>	06/26/17	R. L. Stevenson St. Pk	SON	1	EuH
<b>Varied Thrush</b>	07/14/17	Bohemia Eco. Preserve	SON	1f	RoK
<b>Cedar Waxwing</b>	07/31/14	Ragle Ranch Reg. Prk	SON	2	LiH
<b>Tennessee Warbler</b>	05/29/17	Campbell Cove	SON	1	DaN
<b>Northern Parula</b>	05/26/17	Owl Canyon	SON	2m	DaN, WiG, MoF
<b>Chestnut-sided Warbler</b>	06/13/17	Owl Canyon	SON	1m	DaN
<b>Hermit Warbler</b>	08/17/17	Owl Canyon	SON	1m	DeF
<b>Blackpoll Warbler</b>	06/07-09/17	Owl Canyon	SON	1m	DaN, DeF, BrO&OrO, DAH, BrO'D, ToB, PRH, mob
<b>Ovenbird</b>	06/09/17	N. side of Hwy 1 Birdwalk	SON	1	DaN heard only
<b>Summer Tanager</b>	05/26-27/17	Owl Canyon	SON	1m	DaN, MoF, WiG, DeH, DAH, mob
<b>Rose-breasted Grosbeak</b>	05/25/17	Campbell Cove	SON	1f	DaN
<b>Rose-breasted Grosbeak</b>	07/10/17	Jonive Rd /Sebastopol	SON	1m	TrB
<b>Indigo Bunting</b>	07/09/17	Fort Ross Road	SON	1m	MoF, BrO, OrO
<b>Indigo Bunting</b>	07/10-30/17	Santa Rosa Crk Trail west of Willowside Road	SON	1m	DeF, BrW, JeM, MaB, WiG, RoS, ALL, DaL, NoO, WiB, mob
<b>Lawrence's Goldfinch</b>	07/06/17	Pine Flat Road	SON	3	LuS, MaS, ToS

**Observer/s for this period:** Will Anderson, Mario Balitbit, Dave Barry, William Bevans, Trina Bowen, Tony Briggs, Luke Cannon, Scott Carey, Peter Colasanti, Bill Doyle, Dea Freid, Mookie Fudenberg, Will German, Doug Hall, Denise Herzberg, David A. Hofmann, Lisa Hug, Eugene Hunn, Alvaro Jaramillo, Robert Keiffer, Susan Kelly, Albert Linkowski, David Lumpkin, Tom McCuller, Jeff Miller, Dan Nelson, Brook OConnor, Orion OConnor, Rob O'Donnell, Brigid O'Dowd, Norm Ortman, Benjamin D. Parmeter, William Rockey, Ruth Anne Rudesill, Eric Scholz, Paul Schorr, Greg Schechter, David Sexton, Jackie Sones, Scott Sorby, Lucas Stephanson, Tom Stephanson, Mark Stephanson, Ron Storey, Gabriel Tarantino, Holly Thomas, Jeff & Eva Valfer, Brian Webb, Alan Wight, Suzie Winquist, Cathy Summa-Wolfe

RRS welcomes New Members!

Randi Magorden of Santa Rosa  
Mary V. Seastrand of Oakland  
Malgorzata Garliche  
Diana Humple

Wendy and William Dreskin  
Krista Clark  
Carleton Eyster

RROS appreciates the generous donations from:

Joey Camilli made a "Gordon Bolander Memorial Donation." She's the daughter of the late Gordon Bolander wishing to give back to the RROS which meant so much to him made a donation from the sales of the book "Birds of Sonoma County" on which he collaborated with his buddy "Dr Mike."

New member Randi Magorden of Santa Rosa

Carmen Patterson made a donation to Kite Tales. She said she was moving out of state and was a past president of RROS.

### YAMS (Young Ancient Murrelets) report by Morganna Beliz

On April 30th, 2017 the YAMs group met at Pine Flat Road. There were seven of us that day, and the sun was high and the sky clear. In other words, it was very hot and, in the morning, very still. It was on the drive up the road — we were working from the top down — where we got one of our first highlights: a flock of migrating warblers. We heard many species, including Hermit Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, and Townsend's Warbler. The Hermit Warbler sat on a Douglas Fir branch, right out in the sun as he ran about the bough and showed us his beautiful golden face and striking black and gray plumage. He was the first one I'd seen, and he was absolutely stunning. Another interesting bird we saw on the way up that was a first for me was the Purple Martin. There were three, two males and a female, who were flying above us with that wonderful iridescent violet plumage. When we reached the top, we spotted some Western Kingbirds, a California Thrasher, and two Rufous-crowned Sparrows, to name a few. We searched for Bell's Sparrow, but unfortunately found none. Our second highlight was also a warbler: Nashville's Warbler, to be exact. We'd heard them on our way up but we actually spotted one partway down sitting in a tree after much searching and running up and down the road. As typical of warblers, it was constantly moving, so it was hard to get a good look as it flitted about the leaves - still, it's lucky we got to see it at all. Farther down we came across Lazuli Buntings at a large open meadow. They were sitting on the telephone wires, trees, or on the barbed wire fence that ran across a portion of the field. On our way back to the vehicles, one male landed on a wire above us, allowing us to see his titian and royal blue plumage and Mark to get some good photographs. All in all, it was an amazing day - we got a total of 53 species in nearly seven hours with seven observers.

### Photo Gallery

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

Also, send your rarities to Ron Storey to be shared on:

<http://rros.org/HTML/RareBirdPhotos.htm>

## Photo Gallery

There will be no Photo Gallery in this issue. I apologize to all those who submitted photographs over the summer. As the substitute Kite Tales editor I do not have the computer knowledge to format them here.

~ Ruth

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### PISHING WITH PARMETER YANACocha 3/15/10

Our son, John, and I took a 3 week trip to Ecuador, our first trip to this country which has one of the largest lists of birds of any country in the world. The previous day, 3/14, we had gone to the public garden in Quito to see a Stygian Owl (*Asio stygius*) after I had been calling the tour leader daily to ascertain if the owl was still on its perch there. Unfortunately, the owl died the day before our arrival (shall probably never observe this species; it is very rare indeed!)

On the 15<sup>th</sup>, our birding group took a small bus to the Yanacocha Trail, which is in the mountains west of Quito. The trail starts at 11,000 ft., goes out 2 miles, and ends at a group of hummingbird feeders (I have no idea who cares for these feeders). On the climb up the hill we saw a Paramo Pipit (a lifer). I found the walk on the trail a bit tiring. Observed a good mix of birds; two of the early lifers were Tawny-rumped Tyrannulet and Buff-winged Starfrontlet. Had good looks at an Ash-colored Tapacula. The tapaculas are difficult to observe, but this bird responded to a tape. Two lifers, which afforded great views, were Smoky Bush-Tyrant and a Crowned Chat-Tyrant. Jays tend to be quite secretive in the tropics; we spotted a Turquoise Jay. Another lifer, Carunculated Caracara, was seen in flight.

About two thirds of the way out, we came upon a very comfortable beach where I decided to spend the rest of the time while the group continued on to the hummingbird feeders. They saw a Mountain Velvetbreast. I missed that species here but later got it in SW Ecuador.

Some other birds seen along the trail include: Sparkling Violetear (hummer), Great Thrush, Sapphire-vented Puffleg (another hummer), Masked Flowerpiercer, Great Sapphirewing (the second largest of the hummingbirds), Shining Sunbeam (hummer), Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant, Rufous-naped Brush-Finch, Purple-backed Thornbill (hummer), Rufous Wren, Plain-colored Seedeater, Tufted Tit-Tyrant, White-tailed Tyrannulet, and Masked, Glossy, and Black Flowerpiercers. None of this group were new to me, having been in the Andes several times previously.

On our descent, I added Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan and Golden-headed Quetzal to my life list. Also, saw an Andean Cock-of-the-rock, which I had seen earlier in Peru.



**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 September through May, at 7:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church, 1515 Montgomery Dr, Santa Rosa. Dues are \$20 per individual, \$25 per 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					
	Role	Name	Address	E-mail	Phone
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	Secretary	Rita Bevans	237 Deanna Pl, Windsor 95492	<a href="mailto:ritanbill@comcast.net">ritanbill@comcast.net</a>	484-3704
	Treasurer	Rob O'Donnell	421 St. Mary Place, Santa Rosa 95409	<a href="mailto:robodonnell1@outlook.com">robodonnell1@outlook.com</a>	694-9776
Committee Chairs	Field Trips	Monica Schwalbenberg- Peña	6136 Batesole Dr Santa Rosa 95404	<a href="mailto:fieldsketcher@gmail.com">fieldsketcher@gmail.com</a>	542-8107
	Observations	David Hofmann	2021 Pioneer Wy #47, Santa Rosa 95403	<a href="mailto:nnamfoh@comcast.net">nnamfoh@comcast.net</a>	546-0325
	Christmas Bird Count	Bill Doyle	86 Westgate Circle, Santa Rosa 95401	<a href="mailto:shortbill@comcast.net">shortbill@comcast.net</a>	483-8773
	Kite Tales	Bob Hasenick	Santa Rosa	<a href="mailto:bobhasenick@att.net">bobhasenick@att.net</a>	486-0055
	YAMS Coord	Lisa Hug	Sebastopol	<a href="mailto:lisahug@sonic.net">lisahug@sonic.net</a>	535-9370
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	Hospitality	Linda Hammer		<a href="mailto:gardenladylee@aol.com">gardenladylee@aol.com</a>	823-4389

**Kite Tales Deadline is the 20th:** Submit observations to David Hofmann and other items to Bob Hasenick.

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

