


KITE TALES

a monthly newsletter from the
Redwood Region Ornithological Society

Volume 57 Number 4

December 2021



Barn Owl  Malcolm Blanchard



Next RROS Virtual Meeting
December 8th // 7:00 pm



What's New on the RROS Website?
If you missed last month's Presentation the video recording is available to stream on our website at
www.RROS.org/virtualmeeting

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SAVE THE DATE

December Membership Meeting: Wednesday, December 8th via Zoom , 7:00 pm

This month's meeting and presentation will be streamed live to all members with internet access.

***A new in-person venue is in the works. If we are able to host an in-person meeting for December an email will be sent out ASAP.**

This month's virtual program: Member Showcase (our final meeting of 2020)



Please consider actively participating this month with a sample of your photos, bird recordings, bird artwork, sketches, or any other bird-inspired offerings, eg, best homemade suet or seeded peanut butter recipe?

You don't have to be a computer expert to participate. But PLEASE let Jeff or Gene know by December 4th that you'd like to contribute so that we can do some organization and to ensure that your chosen format will work best for sharing from wherever you're Zooming. For those of you who have attended our recent Zoom meetings, you've seen that, with a flip of a switch, the screen can be shared from different locations.

a festive photo courtesy of Rob O'Donnell

TO "JOIN" THE ZOOM MEETING

1) click on the "Join Zoom Meeting" link provided in the email sent by RROS. To protect the security of the meeting, this link will not be posted on the RROS website. The meeting is open to both RROS members and non-members. A non-member MUST contact Jeff Valfer (jhvalfer@gmail.com) to "register" their email contact info for the meeting (will be used ONLY for the purpose of verifying a friendly person).

2) Follow the prompts to download and run ZOOM and/or to ensure that you have the current version of the ZOOM app.

3) Enter the meeting ID NUMBER*, if prompted. Enter the PASSCODE*, if prompted.

4) Click to "join the audio conference". Once in the meeting, you may click on the "START VIDEO" or "JOIN VIDEO" button to Zoom yourself into the conference.

5) Once the presentation starts, please select the "mute" button to block audio from your station. At any time during and/or at the conclusion of the presentation, click on the "CHAT" button at the bottom of the screen to type in any comments or questions.

Trouble Shooting:

If the presenter and slides are blocked by the "windows" of other participants, click on "hide video panel", on the TOP RIGHT of your screen.

If you find that you've reached the "waiting room" and can't get into the meeting, or if you've been dropped from the meeting , PLEASE contact Jeff Valfer, identify yourself and we'll try to make sure you can join.

*More specific info (including ID NUMBER and PASSCODE) will be sent in an email to all RROS members between now and the meeting time.

UPCOMING RROS FIELD TRIPS & EVENTS

RROS Field Trips in the Time of COVID-19

This last year, due to Covid, we required field-trip attendees to make reservations in order to limit the size of the group. We will not be doing that this year, 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.

To RSVP, contact Malcolm Blanchard by email at mab@mabco.com or text at (707) 480-2210.

• Saturday -December 11, 2021, Tolay Regional Park, 2:30PM – 5:30PM



We'll spend the late afternoon observing local raptors, as we wait for sun-down and for Short-eared Owls to replace Northern Harriers in their shared hunting niche. These owls are magnificent creatures that glide silently over the marsh in the diminishing light of the day. Meet at the Tolay Regional Park parking lot (38.2050058, -122.5210195) (\$7 fee, or County pass) at 2:30PM. 4:51PM sunset.

To RSVP or more information, contact Malcolm Blanchard at (707) 480-2210.

• Sunday -December 19, 2021, Santa Rosa Christmas Bird Count, Dawn - Dusk

Any questions — please contact the CBC coordinator/compiler Gene Hunn at enhunn323@comcast.net.

• Wednesday -December 29, 2021, Sonoma Valley Christmas Bird Count, Dawn - Dusk

Any questions — please contact the CBC coordinator/compiler Gene Hunn at enhunn323@comcast.net.

• Saturday -January 8, 2022, Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area with Peter Colasanti, 9:30AM – 1:00PM



Peter Colasanti will lead us on a tour of this fabulous wintering spot on the Pacific Flyway just off Interstate 80 between Davis and Sacramento. Expect large numbers of waterfowl, including Snow Geese (both white and dark morphs) and Ross's Geese. We should see a variety of ducks and other wetland species, including White-faced Ibis. Meet at Parking Lot A (38.5632467, -121.6355989) at 9:30AM. From Davis take I-80 east and exit at Mace Blvd. Turn left at the end of the off-ramp (Chiles Road). Go straight through the next light and travel approximately 4 miles to the end of the road. Drive up onto the levee and enter the Wildlife Area on the left. Vaccinated birders are encouraged to arrange carpools from Sonoma County. Bring lunch. Please note that during wet years this refuge may be closed, due to flooding. You can learn of a closure by accessing <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Closures>. If that happens, we will divert to another refuge. Therefore, it is important that you RSVP for this trip so we can contact you. To RSVP or more information, contact Malcolm Blanchard at (707) 480-2210.

• Saturday -January 22, 2022, San Pablo Bay shore sites with Gene Hunn, 8:00AM – 1:00PM



We'll bird the north shore of San Pablo Bay, south of Highway 37. Gene Hunn will lead us checking out the large concentrations of raptors, shorebirds and other waterfowl. Meet at the Port Sonoma parking lot next to the Petaluma River (38.1166961, -122.5031966) at 8:00AM. We will check the abandoned docks for Ridgway's Rail and the mouth of the Petaluma River for shorebirds and waterfowl before heading east to Reclamation Road, the Tubbs Island trail near the mouth of Tolay Creek, and the wetlands at the Skaggs Island spur off Highway 37. Finish by 1:00PM. Expect a fair bit of walking. Bring your lunch. Carpooling among vaccinated birders is encouraged.

To RSVP or more information, contact Malcolm Blanchard at (707) 480-2210.

A Note on YAMS Field Trips ...

All field trips meet at 8:30 am at the site unless otherwise denoted. Most are half-day excursions ending at 12:30pm with a group lunch and field trip bird list compilation. As always, bring binoculars, water, snacks, lunch, plenty of layered clothing, and field guides.

A "Y" indicates that the field trip is suitable for younger YAMS members (one site, half day).

An "O" indicates that it is more suitable for older members (multiple sites, driving in-between, all-day excursions).

All field trips are open to all YAMS members and parents can judge whether each field trip is appropriate for their child.

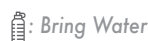
Questions: Contact Lisa Hug at lisahug@sonic.net.

■ Sunday - December 12, 2021, YAMS "Y" Tolay Regional Park - 3:00 PM - Dusk

This field trip is designated as "Y." Meet at 3:00 PM for an afternoon of birding and staying into the evening to hope for Short-eared Owls which are often seen there in the winter. Bring lots of warm clothes.

■ Sunday - December 19, 2021, YAMS "O" Santa Rosa Christmas Bird Count - 7:45 am - Dusk

This field trip is designated as "O." Meet at 7:45 AM at the Santa Rosa Utilities Department, 69 Stony Circle, Santa Rosa, CA 95401. This will be a very long day with the optional Count dinner in the evening.



Field Trip Reports

Early Morning Owling at Sugar Loaf State Park , October 9, 2021:

On October 9th, before dawn, Ruth Rudesill led a group of nine early birders along the entrance road to Sugarloaf Ridge State Park in search of owls. The first few stops, where Ruth was hoping for Spotted Owls, yielded only one Northern Pygmy-Owl. But when we arrived at the large rocks overlooking the canyon, things really picked up. At least six Pygmys called from all directions. A Western Screech-Owl landed near us and reprised its entire repertoire of calls. Two Great Horned Owls called, as did a distant Saw-whet Owl. After the sun rose, most of us walked the Hillside and Meadow Trails, where we heard another Pygmy-Owl calling during the day. A beautiful and productive morning.

- Malcolm Blanchard

Sonoma Valley Regional Park Trip, November 13, 2021:

On Saturday, November 13, eight birders explored a foggy Sonoma Valley Regional Park, near Glen Ellen. Our first records were Killdeer calling from the murk, and ghostly views of Great Egret and Great Blue Heron. The gate to the park was inexplicably closed, so we parked along Highway 12 and walked in. Sonoma Development Center land was our first destination. We passed the old dairy pasture on our way to Lake Suttonfield, picking up expected birds, such as California Quail, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Cal Towhees, Golden-crowned and Song Sparrows along the way. The lake was not all that productive, but among the Mallards, Pied-billed Grebes, and Coots there was a beautiful male Bufflehead. Back in Regional Park land, we headed back up the main trail. All along the way, in classic oak woodland, we continued to amass woodpecker sightings—Acorn, Nuttall's, and Northern Flicker. In particular, we got good views of both Hairy and Downy Woodpecker. More Hairy than Downy. A few of us trekked up to Damsfly Pond from the picnic area. On our return, at lunch, we rounded out our woodpecker sightings with a Red-breasted Sapsucker. First eBird record for the park in about two years. Nice job Liza!

- Malcolm Blanchard

YAMS Lake Sonoma Trip, November 7, 2021:

In the crisp morning air of November 7, Nolan Work (with parents Beth and Mike), Aubrey Parnay (with parent Autumn) and of course our intrepid leader, Lisa Hug gathered at Lake Sonoma's visitor center. We walked down the grassy slope to the pond, noticing a **Great Blue Heron** in flight along the way. On the pond swam a flock of **American Widgeons**, and a **Black Phoebe** flitted above the reeds. We had the pleasure of examining an oriole's nest from last summer that hung from a willow.

As we walked along Dry Creek, we spotted several pairs of **Mallard** attempting to paddle in the creek rapids. A few **Dark-eyed Juncos** hopped about the roadside. Six or seven **Turkey Vultures** were perched on the water release point, sunning their huge wings. As we strolled back, a flock of **Rock Pigeons** flew overhead. We spotted two **Double-Crested Cormorants** preening in a tree above the creek. Thinking we heard a kingfisher's call we scoured the creek from the bridge but saw nothing.

Lisa then suggested heading over to the frisbee course. We hiked through a grove of redwoods, until we reached a fence. This seemed like a place that would attract birds. The chirp of **Western Bluebirds** made us look up, and about four flew over. We did hear the buzz of a **Spotted Towhee**, but it remained hidden from sight. We trekked on, dodging frisbees as we went. Reaching a dead tree, we found a colony of disgruntled **Acorn Woodpeckers** defending their granary from some pesky **Steller's Jays**. A red-shafted **Northern Flicker** landed in a young tree nearby and we enjoyed him until he flew away. To our excitement, a **Red-Breasted Sapsucker** was climbing a live oak nearby.

A **Nuttall's Woodpecker** checked out the dead tree, and we also spotted the first **Oak Titmouse** of the day. We ambled on, seeing no new birds, but having quite the botany expedition. Fascinating mushroom fairy rings grew--we even found a figure eight! The gargantuan size of some White Oak acorns surprised us, and Beth opened a plant app on which we identified several plants including Common Purslane and Amaranth. Our shoes now rather wet, we stopped at the playground and heard a **Cooper's Hawk**, (although we couldn't find it) and startled up a pair of **Eurasian-Collared Doves**. Noticing much activity in a certain tree, we walked closer and were rewarded with **Chestnut-Backed Chickadees**, the melancholy trill of a **Lesser Goldfinch**, and a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** inquisitively peeking at us. An **American Crow** flapped above, cawing as we started back. We reached the parking lot and saw several **Western Bluebirds** crammed together on a pole. Nolan found a multi-colored rock of blue, red, and green, but we couldn't decide whether it was genuine or painted. As we ate our lunch at the picnic tables, a **Yellow-Rumped Warbler** swooped above the trees. We counted up our birds for the day, and all in all the group saw 33 species.

- Aubrey Parnay, YAM Member (age 11)

OBSERVATIONS

October 21, 2020 to November 20, 2021 // COMPILED BY DAVID A. HOFMANN

Species	Date(s)	Location	Cty	#	Observer(s)
Ross's Goose	11/13/21	Bodega Bay—Spud Point	SON	1	JoS photos
Eurasian Wigeon	11/29/21	Santa Rosa Creek Trail—Delta Pd	SON	1	BrW
Redhead	11/16/21	Santa Rosa Creek Trail—Delta Pd	SON	1	BrW
Black Scoter	11/23/21	Bodega Bay---Porto Bodega	SON	1f	JeV, JoS
Long-tailed Duck	11/16/21	Bodega Bay---north shore	SON	1	ZaM
Costa's Hummingbird	10/29/21	Petaluma Yard	SON	1f	AlW photos
Pacific Golden-Plover	10/22/21	Sonoma Coast State Park	SON	1	EuH
Black-legged Kittiwake	10/05/21	Gualala Point Island	SON	2	PrK
White-faced Ibis	10/29/21	Santa Rosa Creek Trail—Delta Pd	SON	1	BrW fly-over
Northern Saw-whet Owl	11/17/21	Salmon Creek Road	SON	3	ReC
Red-naped Sapsucker	11/03/21	9643 Pocket Canyon Hwy	SON	1	JoS photo
Vermilion Flycatcher	11/16-18/21	Shollenberger Park	SON	1im	CMT, DaN photo
Tropical Kingbird	10/29/21	Salmon Creek Community	SON	1	MaW photos
Swamp Sparrow	11/11/21	Ellis Creek Ponds—B pond	SON	1	DeB, AnB
MacGillivray's Warbler	11/06-08/21	Wikiup yard	SON	1	KEM
Palm Warbler	11/04/21	Bodega Marine Lab entrance	SON	1	LiH
Scaly-breasted Munia	11/18/21	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	ChO



OBSERVERS FOR THIS PERIOD

Anonymous eBirder • Deborah Brin • Reef Comer • Lisa Hug • Eugene Hunn • Prince Kuyper • Kate E Magoon • Caitlin McCrory-Tomelden • Zack Mikalonis • Dan Nelson Chris Ortega • Josh Snead • Jeff Valfer • Matt Walter • Brian Webb • Alan Wight



An Interview with Mike Parmeter *Part 3*

On the formation of the Madrone Audubon Society and our complementary missions:

M: You know, when we first organized, we were the Redwood Region Ornithological Society, and we became an affiliate of the National Audubon. We paid

them \$35 a year for affiliation with the National Audubon. And there was a couple in the RROS ... They didn't know much about birds And, suddenly they disappeared from the RROS meetings, and they're the ones who founded Madrone Audubon Society, a husband and wife....

M: When they formed the Madrone Audubon Society, Redwood Region Ornithological Society was meeting regularly. They [RROS] didn't know anything about the formation of Madrone Audubon, and I was President of RROS at that time. I phoned the Sacramento office at Audubon. And I said, "What's going on?" I said, "You know, we've been an affiliate for several years, ... and you form a group in Santa Rosa and you don't even talk to us about it." And the guy there in the office realized what he'd done. He said, "I'd like to come down and have lunch with you." ... He came down, we had lunch; it was fait accompli by then. So I didn't care. Besides, we've maintained as a bird watching society. ... I've never thought about it in terms of conservation. In RROS, you're interested in birds.

G: That's the way it is, ... It's a division of labor, I guess. It seems legitimate to me.

M: We haven't missed a meeting, haven't missed a field trip, published [Kite Tales], so we've really been bird watchers, the state bird watchers, and kept it together. That was in '68 or so

G: But there's some overlap in our membership, ...

M: A lot, yeah, there's a lot. And a lot of people are active in both groups. But the RROS is a bird watching group.

[From the Madrone Audubon Society website: "Established in January, 1967 by Evalyn and Les Bowen "to speak up for the wildlife that was losing its local habitat", Madrone Audubon Society was the "first politically involved conservation organization in Sonoma County" and the first Audubon Chapter in Northern CA, anywhere north of Marin County and Sacramento."

RROS pioneered pelagic trips out of Bodega Bay:

M: We had an early boat trip. Turns out the fellow who was the mechanic at the county hospital had a fishing boat [called] The Finback. And so I pursued him.

G: 1965? You published a list ... in Kite Tales, Volume 6, Number 6. Fifteen Bodega Bay pelagic trips aboard The Finback. From April 24, 1965 through October 17, 1973. This was just about every

month of the year.

M: We published a little book in 1977 and it included that list of birds, the pelagic trips.

G: How far off did you get?

M: We didn't get to the Cordell Banks 'til right at the end of the period. And then, we were going out, we were going straight out. But we got to the Cordell Banks and we were seeing storm-petrels the whole time and we were wondering is there some place else after that. I've been to the Cordell Banks 60 or 70 times. ... And then the Pterodroma comes down from the north, gets into California water. What's his name?

G: Mottled?

M: Yes, mottled ... Gotta go out a ways.

G: Thirty or forty miles. ...

M: Yeah, we didn't go that far normally. We went about 26, 27, 28. And we'd get just beyond the Cordell Banks. It's a long drive home in the afternoon.

G: So, what were the best birds you saw on these pelagic trips?

M: Well, we didn't learn about storm-petrels until we went to the Cordell Banks. And we got Ashy Storm-Petrels, Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel. Finally the one with the white rump, the Wilson's, yeah, started showing up pretty regularly. And for many years we saw Wilson's, including a flock once of 50.

Local rarities:

G: ... speaking of rarities, what are your, the rarest birds you've found around Sonoma County?

M: Oh, I don't know. Worm-eating Warbler I found.

G: And, where was that, Owl Canyon?

M: Owl Canyon. Some guy named Forest something was right there and Dan was walking up the trail. And I said, "Dan, I got a Worm-eating Warbler here.

G: Wow! Dan Nelson?

M: Dan Nelson. Dan came running up and that was probably the rarest bird I ever found in Sonoma County. I found a few others. I found a few warblers.

G: I remember the Canada and the Black-throated Blue; you found both of those.

M: Yeah, Magnolia I've seen.

G: And I was able to get on them. So, who else, did you interact with? McCaskie and Stallcup and those guys?

M: Not much, I didn't have much to do with them. They were a different ilk.

G: How were they different?

M: Well, they didn't birdwatch much in Sonoma County. The only record for King Eider in Sonoma County is McCaskie's.

G: And the Gray Jay Breeding record, now "Canada Jay," is Rich's and a Bank Swallow colony near Jenner.

M: Yeah.

G: So Rich got up here a few times....

M: He got up here more and more; he began to find more and more things.

G: Well, we would go to PRBO all the time and he would go to Point Reyes all the time chasing rarities, which is when I knew him, which was '68, '69, '70.

Nancy and I came up here; we must have been on Ida Clayton Road. All I can remember was that we were on Mount St. Helena somewhere looking for a Pileated Woodpecker; and then I have the Bohemian Waxwing on my county list because of that invasion in 1969. ... I must have found them in a few places. And then they were all over the place. Rich and I came up on a very rainy day to look for that Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, first Sharp-tailed Sandpiper in Bodega.

M: That was in '69.

G: Yeah, yeah, and we found it, but it was pouring rain.

M: Laurie Binford and I saw that together. Laurie and I birded together between 1968 until he left to bird all over the state. And I was on the [Bird Records Committee] and he got me on the committee and I spent three years with him as a member of the committee and then [McCaskie] pushed me through as secretary, recording secretary. And I was his recording secretary for five years with the California bird records committee and it was too much

work. It was a lot of work and I was busy practicing. I gave it up after eight years on the committee. I was just looking through that book of rarities for California and it lists my name as a member, but they don't [list me] the fifth year as the secretary. They give credit to [Don] Roberson. He wasn't there. I took the records to him. I had done five years as secretary.

G: Yeah, let's see, my first Christmas count was 1968 in San Diego. We all drove down, Rich Stallcup and a bunch of other people. Maybe Jon Winter. I can't remember who all.

M: Yeah, Jon Winter and Rich birded together. They birded together quite a bit.

G: Stallcup would always say, "Just go for it. Be confident." So he always encouraged you not to be too [shy]...

M: Rich was the first, I think he was the best bird watcher I ever birded with. ... He was phenomenal by sight and by sound.

This concludes the interview between Mike Parmeter and Eugene Hunn. Stay tuned for a new Birds of a Feather column in next month's newsletter!

Reflections on 2021 ...

Redwood Region Ornithological Society was organized in 1962 to encourage the study and conservation of birds, other wildlife and their natural habitat. As this year comes to a close, we'd like to say thank you for your support. With the challenges of the pandemic, we've had to find new ways to enjoy the benefits of birding as well as learning about them. Our season runs from September through May.

OUT AND ABOUT... We relied on ten different members to lead twenty field trips, three of which included the Young Ancient Mariners Society. Ruth Rudesill deserves a thank you for guiding us on four of them. Lisa Hug mentored the younger birders on the YAMS outings with special help from Lucas Stephenson leading at Huichica Creek. Speaking of Ancient Mariners (ha!), Gene Hunn organized two pelagic trips.

CHANGES IN THE AIR... It takes a group of special people to nourish our family of birders. We did a little shuffling of officers and board members this year as Gene Hunn steps up from VP to President. Woo Hoo! Jeff Valfer jumps into the Vice-president role with his usual exuberance. Rob O'Donnell heads into his fifth of a two year term as Treasurer (hint, hint). Peter Colasanti continues as Secretary and only he can make reading the minutes of a meeting truly entertaining. Malcolm Blanchard manages to book our field trips, find great leaders, and remind us to be safe in the time of COVID. David Hofmann hasn't missed a wingbeat reporting our observations. Our founder, Mike Parmeter has contributed his "Pishing with Parmeter" column well before anyone even knew what pishing is. Teresa and Miles Tuffli leave us to travel but were fantastic in creating and maintaining our new website. Finally, Kite Tales is in your hands or on your screen because of the untiring dedication and efforts of Eva Valfer.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS... Jennifer & Simon Chadwick, Katie Clas, Wade Eakle, James & Jennifer Fialk, Mary Grishaver, Nancy Hair, Dave & Heidi Horvitz, Barbara Kendrick, John King, Martha Lynne, Beth Ann Mathews, Robin Meredith, Bill & Marianne McNee,

Colin Meusel, Gerry & Lilly Mugele, Margurite Murphy, Laura Nixon, Wendy Palmer, William Perry, Aubrey Phipps-Parnay, Garrett Pierce, Alison Quoyeser, Dan Roth, Clayton Rucker, Deb Sheppard, Moon Tiedeman

THANK YOU... We'd like to thank the following members who made donations to RROS: Chris Bekins, Rick & Ami Bergstrom, Janet Bosshard, Veronica Bowers & Lance Goodry, Mark Butler & Mary Anne Rotella, Julie Clark, Jim Fritzhand, Will & Karen German, Jack & Deyea Harper, David Herrema, Victoria Jackson, Jack & Marilyn Jones, John Klobas, Andy LaCasse, David Leland, Peter Leveque, Colin Meusel, Barbara Moulton, Kathleen Mugele, Laura Nixon, Rob & Anne O'Donnell, Cynthia & John Rathkey, Rhio Reigh, Tom Reynolds, Josh Snead, Glo & Al Wellman,

And special thanks to:

Donald Howard

also

Terry Haag (in memory of Gary Haag);

Rita Bevans, Tony Adams & Kate Lacouture,

Mike Parmeter, and Terry Haag (in memory of Bill Bevans)

This past year RROS made donations totaling \$2,000.00 to these organizations:

Amigos Alados

Bird Rescue Center Of Sonoma County

Native Songbird Care & Conservation

Tierra de Aves, Mexico

Visit their websites for more information.

If you have a suggestion for a donation to a worthwhile cause, please contact Rob O'Donnell.

Your support means so much to sustaining Redwood Region Ornithological Society. None of this would be possible without you. Thanks and best wishes for the holidays and 2022. Good Birding!

Photo Gallery

This month's photos showcase two thrilling rarities that were recently seen in neighboring Marin county. The **Dusky Warbler** in Corte Madera afforded many with exciting looks as it was often observed actively foraging along the foot path of the marsh. The **Scarlet Tanager**, found by Keith Hansen in Bolinas, was another exciting stakeout for many. Thanks to Rick LaBaudour for sharing great shots of both birds with us!



Dusky Warbler, Corte Madera Marsh Marin Co.



Scarlet Tanager, Bolinas Lagoon Marin Co.

Looking for some delightful winter reading about British natural history, with lovely illustrations, depictions of everyday life in a small village, and intersections with various naturalists/writers that you have likely heard of?

Joan Goater, who kept a journal from January 1947 to the early-1990s, was a keen observer of natural history, and an artist who painted exquisite watercolors of wildflowers without drawing them first! She rode her bicycle and walked for miles birdwatching and flower hunting, often with family members, and wrote detailed accounts of her forays. She helped son Barry set up moth traps in their garden, and Barry went on to become a celebrated teacher of field studies and a lepidopterist, writing *British Pyralid Moths: A Guide to Their Identification*. Barry's son Rick became a warden and ranger on estuarine nature reserves, and an ecological consultant based in Cambridge and Scotland.

Rick Goater has edited his grandmother Joan's journals, illustrating them with photos of the species described in her writing and with her lovely paintings.

Here is an example from the journals ...



"Sunset was lovely – I saw it through silver birches and it was a blaze of golden light flickering through the dainty outline of the leaves and silvered trunks against the sky. A Green Woodpecker was flying round and round the opposite wood but uttering no sound whilst a Blackbird was scolding in the undergrowth. It was cool and still as I came home at dusk, and the evening star was out, brilliant and solitary in a dusky blue-black sky, and the Robin sang his little sad, sweet evensong. An owl was hooting in the opposite wood and as I came into the garden a small bat was out hunting, squeaking as he flew round the house. The temperature indoors had dropped to sixty-five degrees at dusk. There were no crickets chirping and I missed the friendly little sound. Owls are screeching in the Pinewood as I write and Hedgehog is having his supper. He is very late, it is past ten-thirty!"

The edited journals: "Forty Years in Chandler's Ford" can be found on "Chandler's Ford Today" : <http://chandlersfordtoday.co.uk/forty-years-in-chandlers-ford-a-journal/>

This delightful submission was brought to you by Monica Schwalbenberg-Peña



ABOUT RROS

Redwood Region Ornithological Society was organized in 1962 “to encourage the study and conservation of birds, other wildlife, and their natural habitat.”

In compliance with local Sonoma County Covid-19 guidelines, meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month October through April. Location TBA. The most current info can be found at www.RROS.org.

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

RROS STAFF

OFFICERS

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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 Eva Valfer.