

# KITE TALES

a monthly newsletter from the  
Redwood Region Ornithological Society

Volume 57 Number 6

February 2022



Bald Eagle 📷 Dennis Luz



**Next RROS Meeting**  
February 9th // 7:00 pm



**What's New on the RROS Website?**  
Newly posted on the "Resources" page: a 12/10/21 Birds of Sonoma County supplemental publication by Benjamin (Mike) Parmeter and Alan Wight. This rich document updates the 2012 publication and includes details of rare bird observations, such as First County Records and more.  
  
On the YAMS page: inspiring report of the group's latest field trip to the Jenner Headlands. Plus latest calendar postings for upcoming field trips and more.

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## SAVE THE DATE

### February Virtual Membership Meeting :Wednesday, February 9th , 7:00 pm

We have located a comfortable venue in lieu of the traditional church hall (which is still off-limits due to covid restrictions).

We will gather at The Arlene Francis Center for Spirit, Art, & Politics ([www.arlenefranciscenter.org](http://www.arlenefranciscenter.org)) located just north of Railroad Square in downtown Santa Rosa at 99 6th St. This meeting will be streamed live via Zoom for all members.

### This month's program: "Birdability" with Freya McGregor, Birdability Coordinator

Birdability is a non-profit organization focused on removing barriers to access for birders with mobility challenges, blindness or low vision, intellectual or developmental disabilities (including autism), mental illness, being Deaf or Hard of Hearing and other health concerns; and bringing the joy of birding to people with disabilities and other health concerns who aren't yet birders. Learn about why this should matter to you (even if you don't have an accessibility challenge), ways to be a more welcoming and inclusive birder, the Birdability Map (and how to submit a Birdability Site Review) and our resources for birders (and potential future birders) with accessibility challenges, because birding is for everybody and every body! Learn more and find resources at [birdability.org](http://birdability.org)



Freya (she/her) is the staff person at Birdability, responsible for resource creation, programming, communications, fundraising, administration, and operations. As an occupational therapist, she understands ways to modify the physical and cultural environments, adapt tasks and equipment to enable participation, and public health programming, and her background is in blindness and low vision services. As such, much of Birdability's work is done through an occupational therapy lens.

Her 'dodgy' knee often creates an accessibility challenge for her when she's trying to go birding. In her spare time she works as the Outreach Coordinator for the radio show and podcast *Talkin' Birds*: a radio show and podcast about birds and conservation. You can follow her on Instagram @the.ot.birder

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:mab@mabco.com) or text at (707) 480-2210.

#### • Saturday - February 12, 2022, Hudeman Slough with Malcolm Blanchard, 8:00AM – 1:00PM

Hudeman Slough, south of the town of Sonoma, near Skaggs Island, is a rich birding area hosting many water fowl, now that the fields are flooded. Join us for a survey of the area. Owls, shrikes, and raptors are expected. We will meet at the parking area (38.2211039, -122.3953507) off Ramal Road at 8:00AM. No bathrooms. Bring a lunch.

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

#### • Saturday - February 19, 2022, YAMS Field Trip: Armstrong Woods Owling with Ruth Rudesill, 4:30PM – 10:30PM

Meet at 4:30pm at the entrance parking lot to Armstrong Woods on Armstrong Woods Rd in Guerneville. We will do a little exploring for birds while it is still light and then we will search for owls at sunset and into the darkness. Bring binoculars, water, snacks, flashlight, and layered clothing. [https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=450](https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=450)

To RSVP or more information, contact Lisa Hug.

#### • Saturday - February 26, 2022, Evening owling on Salmon Creek Road with Ruthie Rudesill, 6:30PM - 8:30PM

Ruthie has some of the best "bird ears" in the County and has great knowledge of owl calls. Probable Northern Pygmy-Owl, Western Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barn Owl and Saw-whet Owl. Possible Spotted Owl. There will be no calling or playing of Spotted Owl calls. We'll meet at the intersection of Salmon Creek Road and Fitzpatrick Lane (38.3589170, -123.0007353) at 6:30PM. This intersection is 2.4 miles out Salmon Creek Road from the town of Bodega (not Bodega Bay). Owling is about hearing the birds, so please wear quiet clothing—nothing that makes noise as you move.

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

### Yolo Bypass Trip, January 8, 2022

An impressive flock of 19 birders showed up to start work on their year lists Saturday Jan. 8th at Yolo Bypass. We had Goldilocks conditions: wet without flooding, crisp at dawn warming through the day, and plenty of birds. There were over 1000 Snow Geese and Pintails, and more Rock Pigeons than you can find in St. Peter's Square. Waterfowl were well represented with 4 species of goose, Tundra Swans, and more varieties of divers than dabblers, including Redhead, Canvasback and both Scaup; good for a shallow water county. Oddly, most of the gulls were Herrings and our best raptor was a Peregrine Falcon.

After the main event, a few of us continued on, chasing a couple county rarities recently seen in the Central Valley. As often happens, it was a nice drive.

-Peter Colasanti

 : Bring Lunch

 : Bring Water

 : Restrooms Not Available

 : Restrooms Available

 : Parking Fee

## Charitable Donations for 2022

Every year RROS makes a number of charitable donations to various non-profit organizations near and far. A call for suggestions was made to the group. Currently we have the following organizations earmarked; Santa Rosa Bird Rescue Center and The American Bird Conservancy. Other nominations and donation amounts will be up for discussion at February's membership meeting.



### Hats for Sale!

New hats are here! Available in Khaki, Navy, and Sage.

\$15 for in person purchases or \$20 to have them mailed.

Send an email to [robodonnell1@gmail.com](mailto:robodonnell1@gmail.com) to get yours!

# Sonoma Valley CBC #17, December 29, 2021

## Species List (159 count day, + 4 Count Week):

Ninety-one observers surveyed the bird life within our 15-mile diameter circle centered off Sperring Rd. west of Sonoma. During our Zoom compilation conversation (coordinated -- thank you -- by Richard Dale of the Sonoma Ecology Center) we were certain of 149 count day species, on the low side. However, in the interim as detailed reports dribbled in and several count-week sightings were added, we have now tallied a modest 159 count-day species plus four additional count week (cw) species for a grand total of 163, seven less than last year. I suspect the mid-day drizzle fogged up some lenses. However, the difference is largely attributable to the many quite rare species recorded in 2020 and several misses this year, notably, Blue-winged Teal, Mountain Quail, Ring-necked Pheasant, Horned Grebe, Rough-legged and Ferruginous Hawks, Spotted and Short-eared Owls, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Townsend's Solitaire, Tricolored Blackbird, and Great-tailed Grackle. Nevertheless, our lists provide a detailed picture of our local winter bird populations. A grand total of 52,897 individual birds were counted (80% of the long-term average) by our 91 volunteers.

Gene Hunn, compiler

**New for the circle: a Vermilion Flycatcher: An individual first reported via the Facebook (now Meta) grapevine some weeks before reappeared behind locked gates at the Petaluma Oxidation Ponds at Ellis Creek.**

As usual, each count records "winners" and "losers." I have taken the average of the first 16 SVCBCs (2005-2020) and the highest and lowest counts for each of the 227 (now up to 228) species recorded since 2005, then compared this year's totals by means of a ratio. A ratio greater than 1.00 indicates an above average tally; a ratio less than 1.00 a below average tally. Ratios above 2.0 are notably large (excepting species recorded in such small numbers as to defy statistical significance; these I ignore). Ratios below 0.33 are notably depressed. Numbers above the previous maxima or below previous minima (again ignoring very low incidence) are, of course, of special interest. Patterns in these statistics, however, are rarely obvious.

**New maxima (N = 13) include:** American Wigeon (1061), Bufflehead (920), Wild Turkey (452), American Bittern (5), Herring Gull (407), Glaucous-winged Gull (1410), Eurasian Collared-Dove (350), Horned Lark (104), Tree and Violet-green Swallows (484, 186), Rufous-crowned Sparrow (10), Purple Finch (81, tying last year's record), and Common Yellowthroat (35). Redheads at 15 and White-throated Swifts at 41 were near their all-time high counts.

**New minima (N = 7) include (this year's total vs. the previous low count):** Mallard (380 vs. 513), Virginia Rail (5 vs. 6), California Gull (165 vs. 170 [gull frequencies changed dramatically this year, with Herring and Glaucous-winged at record highs, California at a record low]), Snowy Egret (12 vs. 32) [Great Blue Heron and Great Egret numbers were also quite low], White-tailed Kite (16 vs. 30), Northern Harrier (20 vs. 31), Lark Sparrow (6 vs. 7 [Lincoln Sparrows were also down, 5 vs. 5]). Other notable low counts were American Kestrel (67 vs. 65), Hutton's Vireo (13 vs. 12), Loggerhead Shrike (tied all-time low at 5), Chestnut-backed Chickadee (109 vs. 105), Marsh Wren (20 vs. 16 [wrens can be tough as we recorded just single Rock and House Wrens and just two Pacific Wrens]), and Townsend's Warbler (tied all-time low at 3).

**Here is the final list with numbers in parentheses. In parentheses following the name is this year's total, with the long-term average ratio (for all but rare species) following the slash. Ratios greater than 2.0 and less than 0.33 are highlighted in bold face**

Snow Goose (1)  
Greater White-fronted Goose (5)  
Cackling Goose (31/0.86)  
Canada Goose (887/0.75)  
Mute Swan (65/1.24)  
Mandarin Duck (20/1.44)  
Wood Duck (5/0.11)  
Cinnamon Teal (15/0.42)  
Northern Shoveler (224/0.54)  
Gadwall (327/1.10)  
Eurasian Wigeon (2)  
American Wigeon (1061/**4.68**)  
Mallard (380/0.45)  
Northern Pintail (500/**2.16**)  
Green-winged Teal (261/0.47)  
Canvasback (467/1.84)  
Redhead (15/**3.81**)  
Ring-necked Duck (276/1.75)  
Greater Scaup (3/**0.02**)  
Lesser Scaup (58/1.66)

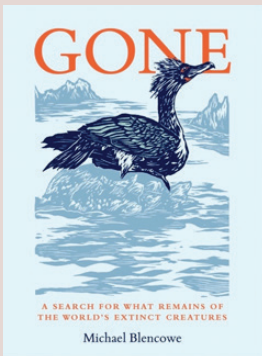
Bufflehead (920/**2.07**)  
Common Goldeneye (140/1.36)  
Hooded Merganser (61/1.41)  
Common Merganser (89/0.96)  
**Red-breasted Merganser (1)**  
Ruddy Duck (482/1.07)  
California Quail (644/1.42)  
Wild Turkey (452/**3.03**)  
Pied-billed Grebe (52/0.86)  
Eared Grebe (13/1.10)  
**Western Grebe (cw)**  
Clark's Grebe (1)  
Rock Pigeon (245/0.63)  
Band-tailed Pigeon (203/0.48)  
Eurasian Collared-Dove (**350/2.83**)  
Mourning Dove (134/0.53)  
White-throated Swift (**41/4.90**)  
Anna's Hummingbird (183/0.82)  
Virginia Rail (5/0.34)  
Sora (1/**0.12**)

Common Gallinule (7/0.84)  
American Coot (505/0.52)  
Black Rail (1)  
Black-necked Stilt (54/0.68)  
American Avocet (701/1.80)  
Black-bellied Plover (53/0.83)  
**Semipalmated Plover (cw)**  
Killdeer (199/0.70)  
Long-billed Curlew (17/0.42)  
Marbled Godwit (1/**0.04**)  
Dunlin (541/0.75)  
Least Sandpiper (788/1.04)  
Western Sandpiper (704/**2.13**)  
Long-billed Dowitcher (220/0.85)  
Wilson's Snipe (17/0.74)  
Greater Yellowlegs (43/0.83)  
Willet (74/**3.75**)  
Bonaparte's Gull (31/**0.31**)  
Short-billed (Mew) Gull (147/**3.79**)  
Ring-billed Gull (314/0.60)

Western Gull (962/1.97)  
 California Gull (165/0.28)  
 Herring Gull (407/15.54)  
 Iceland (Thayer's) Gull (3/0.61)  
 Glaucous-winged Gull (1410/3.88)  
 Western x Glaucous-winged Gull (3)  
 Gull sp. (2032)  
 Forster's Tern (2)  
 Double-crested Cormorant (32/0.58)  
 American White Pelican (21/0.63)  
 American Bittern (5/2.50)  
 Great-blue Heron (20/0.63)  
 Great Egret (56/0.70)  
 Snowy Egret (12/0.19)  
**Green Heron (cw)**  
 Black-crowned Night- Heron (47/0.58)  
 Turkey Vulture (267/0.79)  
 White-tailed Kite (16/0.27)  
 Golden Eagle (3/0.47)  
 Northern Harrier (20/0.37)  
 Sharp-shinned Hawk (5/0.47)  
 Cooper's Hawk (8/0.48)  
 Accipiter sp. (1)  
 Bald Eagle (cw)  
 Red-shouldered Hawk (68/0.85)  
 Red-tailed Hawk (142/0.71)  
 Barn Owl (2/0.22)  
 Western Screech-Owl (4/0.41)  
 Great Horned Owl (13/0.60)  
 Northern Pygmy-Owl (3/0.66)  
 Burrowing Owl (2)  
 Northern Saw-whet Owl (1)  
 Belted Kingfisher (8/0.50)  
 Red-breasted Sapsucker (20/1.09)  
 Acorn Woodpecker (678/1.61)  
 Downy Woodpecker (19/0.79)

Nuttall's Woodpecker (114/1.00)  
 Hairy Woodpecker (26/1.66)  
 Pileated Woodpecker (6/0.48)  
 Northern Flicker (235/0.84)  
 American Kestrel (67/0.55)  
 Merlin (7/0.79)  
 Peregrine Falcon (1/0.25)  
 Prairie Falcon (1)  
 Black Phoebe (157/0.75)  
 Say's Phoebe (56/0.79)  
**Vermilion Flycatcher (1)**  
 Hutton's Vireo (13/0.62)  
 Loggerhead Shrike (5/0.56)  
 Steller's Jay (161/1.10)  
 California Scrub-Jay (399/0.99)  
 American Crow (668/0.78)  
 Common Raven (304/1.45)  
 Chestnut-backed Chickadee (109/0.58)  
 Oak Titmouse (363/1.44)  
 Horned Lark (104/24.84)  
 Tree Swallow (484/5.06)  
 Violet-green Swallow (146/8.23)  
 Tree/Violet-green Swallow (15)  
 Barn Swallow (5/1.60)  
 Bushtit (418/0.70)  
 Wrenit (24/0.91)  
 Golden-crowned Kinglet (7/0.37)  
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet (267/0.92)  
 White-breasted Nuthatch (110/1.01)  
 Brown Creeper (19/0.71)  
 Rock Wren (1/0.43)  
 House Wren (1/0.34)  
 Pacific Wren (2/0.51)  
 Marsh Wren (20/0.42)  
 Bewick's Wren (57/1.18)  
 European Starling (8892/0.63)

California Thrasher (5/1.27)  
 Northern Mockingbird (109/0.89)  
 Western Bluebird (1086/1.46)  
 Varied Thrush (54/0.33)  
 Hermit Thrush (157/1.39)  
 American Robin (2213/0.32)  
 Cedar Waxwing (298/0.71)  
 House Sparrow (75/0.61)  
 American Pipit (186/1.12)  
 House Finch (1128/0.86)  
 Purple Finch (81/2.42)  
 Pine Siskin (21/0.59)  
 Lesser Goldfinch (816/1.18)  
 American Goldfinch (149/0.52)  
 Lark Sparrow (6/0.11)  
 Fox Sparrow (69/1.38)  
 Dark-eyed Junco (1474/0.68)  
 White-crowned Sparrow (1786/1.29)  
 Golden-crowned Sparrow (1876/1.14)  
 White-throated Sparrow (14/1.43)  
 Savannah Sparrow (151/0.46)  
 Song Sparrow (213/1.01)  
 Lincoln's Sparrow (5/0.17)  
 California Towhee (470/1.13)  
 Rufous-crowned Sparrow (10/3.41)  
 Spotted Towhee (205/1.28)  
 sparrow sp. 30  
 Western Meadowlark (789/0.84)  
 Red-winged Blackbird (4157/0.79)  
 Brown-headed Cowbird (17/0.15)  
 Brewer's Blackbird (1081/0.20)  
 Orange-crowned Warbler (1)  
 Common Yellowthroat (35/4.83)  
**Yellow Warbler (1)**  
 Yellow-rumped Warbler (1366/0.90)  
 Townsend's Warbler (3/0.18).



A Spectacled Cormorant graces the cover of this lovely book, which I ran across by chance at the Bookmine bookstore in Napa. The pale blue cover with the embossed word "GONE" in red, with the lovely illustration of the cormorant caught my eye. The subtitle, "A Search for what Remains of the World's Extinct Creatures" explains the journey which author Michael Blencowe invites the reader to join.

Blencowe works for the Sussex Wildlife Trust. All his life he has been fascinated by extinct species. His Twitter feed and Sussex Trust blog posts are cheerful and lively, describing insects and birds and habitat. Yet ... "when I was a child, I imagined the world to be vast, balanced and indestructible, but sat here watching forests burn and icecaps melt it seems vulnerable, and somehow smaller."

The great thing about this book is that it isn't depressing. Although Blencowe chronicles the demise of each species, his writing style is so lively and his wonder and love for his subject is so great, that I enjoyed every page, from the Great Auk, to California's own Xerces Blue, to the Dodo, whose bones reside in the house of Sussex eccentric Ralfe Whistler, who collects "all things Dodo". Blencowe meets with curators (including the Cal Academy) to view specimens, weaves history and beautiful descriptions of terrain and people through each account, all illustrated with Jade They's exquisite illustrations.

"Of all the extinct animals in this book, it's the huia that I miss the most. As a child I fell in love with these extraordinary birds the moment I saw the vintage painting of two huia that graced the cover of my favorite book, Erroll Fuller's Extinct Birds. The huia was everything I wanted in an extinct bird: unique, exotic and odd. Like the moa it had lived in New Zealand, and I'd often lie on my bed dreaming of those faraway forests where the huia once flew."

If you ever have wished you could have seen an extinct species, take a journey with Blencowe.

(Gone, A Search for what Remains of the World's Extinct Creatures, Michael Blencowe, Leaping Hare Press, 2021.)

-Monica Schwalbenberg-Pena

## OBSERVATIONS

December 21, 2020 to January 20, 2022 // COMPILED BY DAVID A. HOFMANN

Species	Date/s	Location	Cty	#	Observers/s
Tundra Swan	01/09-16/22	Spring Hill Road	SON	3	Ma&LuS, LuC, CoC, MaB, AlW, DeL, DaH, WhM, DaT, EuH, JeV, JoS, ChN, JiC, JaH, DoK, JoT, DaF, CaR, CoH, EIC, MaL, Ro&AnO, Pe&TrD, ScC, RoH photos
Ross's Goose	12/24/21	Ellis Creek Water Recycling Facility	SON	1	GeP
Eurasian Wigeon	12/24/21-01/05/22	Viansa Winery and wetlands	SON	2	EuH, EIL, SVCBC, Ma&LuS
Eurasian Wigeon	12/26/21	Delta Pond	SON	1m	BrW
Eurasian Wigeon	12/30/21-01/13/22	Doran Regional Pk entrance pond	SON	1m	DeF, LiF, JoS
Eurasian Wigeon	01/04/22	Shollenberger Park	SON	1m	LiH
Eurasian Wigeon	01/14/22	Washington School Rd---ponds	SON	2	LiH
Redhead	12/29/21	Sonoma---Sonoma Creek	SON	15	EIL SVCBC
Mandarin Duck	12/29/21	SVCBC	SON	20	SVCBC
White-winged Scoter	12/24/21-01/11/22	Bodega Bay---harbor & vicinity	SON	1f	BrD, JoS, JoE, RoS, ThB, LiH photo
Black Scoter	01/08/22	Bodega Head State Park	SON	3	MaH
Long-tailed Duck	12/30/21---01/14/22	Bodega harbor	SON	1f	MaB, JoE, RAR, AlW, Ma&LuS, CoB, DeH, WeD photos
Costa's Hummingbird	01/09/22	Guerneville---Riverside Drive	SON	1	Ma&LuS, LuC, CoC heard only?
Sandhill Crane	01/09-15/22	Spring Hill Road	SON	1	Ma&LuS, LuC, CoC, DaH, TiE, AlW, DeL, MaB, DaT, GaP, MaG, DaH, EuH, JeV, JoS, ChN, JiC, JaH, JoT, DoK, DaF, CaR, CoH, EIC, MaL, Ro&AnO, Pe&TrD, ScC, RoH, WeD photos

Glaucous Gull	12/27/21-01/14/22	Bodega Bay---harbor	SON	1	OsM, AtF, BDP, JoP, RaB ROD, Ch&TeW, LeA, Ma&LuS, EuH photos
Black-legged Kittiwake	12/21-29/21	Delta Pond	SON	1	BrW, JoS, Je&EvV, CoM photos
Black-legged Kittiwake	01/19/22	Bodega Bay---Porto Bodega	SON	1	AnB photos
Barred Owl	01/11/22	9643 Pocket Canyon Hwy	SON	1	JoS heard only
Short-eared Owl	01/15/22	Hudeman Slough	SON	1	CoM
Northern Saw-whet Owl	12/30/21	Salmon Creek Road	SON	1	ShP heard only
Northern Saw-whet Owl	01/10-16/22	9643 Pocket Canyon Hwy	SON	1	JoS
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	12/23/21-01/20/22	Guerneville---River House	SON	1f	ScC, Ch&CaR, JeV, JoS, LuC, Ma&LuS, EvV, GaP, EuH, MaB, DoK photos
Red-naped Sapsucker	12/27/21-01/01/22	Guerneville---River House	SON	1	ScC, JoS, Je&EvV, GaP photos
Lewis's Woodpecker	01/06-19/22	Healdsburg---Hwy 128 x Batt Rd---Hanna Winery	SON	1	KuN, GaP, Ma&LuS, CoM, ScC, MaG, DaT, KEM, EuH, DoK, MaB, KaW, WeD, ChN photos
Vermilion Flycatcher	12/29/21	Ellis Creek Water Recycling Facility	SON	1	JoM, AnL, PeC photos SVCBC
Rock Wren	12/29/21	SVCBC	SON	1	SVCBC
Rock Wren	01/09/22	679-763 Carmody Road	SON	1	CoC
Canyon Wren	01/15/22	Robert L. Stevenson State Park	SON	1	Ma&LuS, LuC recorded
American Dipper	01/08/21	Milt Brandt Visitors Center	SON	1	Ma&LuS photo
Townsend's Solitaire	01/15/22	Robert L. Stevenson State Park	SON	1	Ma&LuS, LuC
Lapland Longspur	12/26/21-01/05/22	Skaggs Island Road	SON	3	ScC, LuS, LuC, JeV, RAR, AIW, Ma&LuS photos
Chestnut-collared Longspur	12/24/21-01/05/22	Skaggs Island Road	SON	3	LuS, RAR, ScC, LuC, Ma&LuS photos
Swamp Sparrow	01/19/22	Sebastopol---Laguna Farm	SON	1	JoS
Tricolored Blackbird	01/05/22	Schellville---Mulas Dairy	SON	1	Ma&LuS

Tricolored Blackbird	01/09-15/22	The Sea Ranch--- Cormorant Close	SON	20	ChD, GaP photo
Rusty Blackbird	12/26/21	Santa Rosa---1846 Ludwig Ave	SON	1	DaM photo
Black-and-White Warbler	12/25/21	Petaluma--- Center Road yard	SON	1	CIM photos
Nashville Warbler	12/26/21	Petaluma--- Weatherby Court	SON	1	ElC photos
Scaly-breasted Munia	01/05-19/22	Sebastopol--- Laguna Farm	SON	6	JoS

OBSERVERS FOR THIS PERIOD: Leah Alcyon, Cody Barnes, Anonymous Birder, Malcolm Blanchard, Theodora Block, Scott Carey, Connor Cochrane, Peter Colasanti, Lucas Corneliussen, Jim Crumpler, Elizabeth Crouthamer, Wendy Dandridge, Peter & Tracy Dellavalle, Brock Dolman, Chris Dunford, Jon Erickson, Tiffany Erickson, Atticus Fleming, Dawna Foreman, Linda Fraley, Dea Freid, Mary Grishaver, Connie Haile, Roger Harshaw, Daphne Hatch, Denise Hertzberg, Marcel Holyoak, David Hohmann, James Holmes, Eugene Hunn, Donald Kirker, Andy LaCasse, Mary Lamke, Derek Lecy, Elizabeth Lewis, Kate E. Magoon, Dan Maxwell, Claudia Mayfield, Colin Meusel, Jordan Mills, Whitney Mortimer, Oscar Moss, Christian Naventi, Kurt Niznik, Benjamin D. "Mike" & John Parmeter, George Phelps, Garrett Pierce, Shailesh Pinto, Rob O'Donnell, Ro&AnO, Carolyn Rich, Ruth Ann Rudesill, Chris & Cassidy Ruge, Josh Snead, Lucas Stephenson, Mark & Lucas Stephenson, Ron Storey, John Toldi, David Tomb, Jeff Valfer, Jeff & Eva Valfer, Brian Webb, Alan Wight, Karen Wilkinson, Chris & Teri Wills

January 5, 2022

Joe Leveroni  
601 Leveroni Road  
Sonoma, CA 95476

Dear Mr. Leveroni,

We would like to apologize to you on behalf of our membership – the Redwood Region Ornithological Society (RROS) -- for trespassing on your property south of Skaggs Island Road last month. Though it is not a proper excuse, the intrusions were motivated by an excess of enthusiasm to observe rare longspurs among the hundreds of Horned Larks that were discovered foraging in your fields. A number of our society's members joined the groups walking across your fields. We were uncertain as to the ownership of the properties and should have enquired before intruding. We regret our lack of consideration for local property owners and intend to publish this apology in our monthly newsletter, Kite Tales, with an admonition to avoid such trespass in future.

We would like to emphasize that Mr. Rob O'Donnell -- who is responsible for surveying the Schellville sector of the Sonoma Valley Christmas Bird Count circle -- was never involved in the Skaggs Island Road incidents, and to note that the Christmas bird count, sponsored by the Sonoma Ecology Center, is an important citizen science project that is not connected in any way with the incidents on Skaggs Island Road. We appreciate your cooperation with the Christmas bird count and hope that that cooperation might continue in coming years.

Sincerely yours,

Eugene Hunn, President, Redwood Region Ornithological Society  
Jeff Valfer, Vice-President, RROS  
Rob O'Donnell, Treasurer, RROS



# PHOTO GALLERY



Black-legged Kittiwake, Porto Bodega 📷 Teresa Tuffli



Long-tailed Duck, Bodega Harbor 📷 Rob O'Donnell



Loggerhead Shrike, Tolay Regional Park 📷 Rob O'Donnell



European Starling, Bodega Harbor 📷 Rob O'Donnell



Tree Swallow, Tolay Regional Park 📷 Rob O'Donnell

### 2021 Year End Summary Report

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>\$6,575.00</b>
Membership Dues	\$2,485
Membership Donations	\$2,330
Pelagic Trip 8/30/21	\$720.00
Pelagice Trip 10/3/21	\$860.00
RROS Cap Sales	\$180.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>-\$4,709.84</b>
Donation - Amigos Alados	\$500.00
Donation - Bird Rescue Center	\$500.00
Donation - Native Songbird Care	\$500.00
Donation - Tierra de Aves, Mexico	\$500.00
Education	\$900.00
Equipment	\$35.67
Kite Tales Newsletter	\$451.86
Liability Insurance Policy	\$589.00
Business Expenses	\$40.97
Postage	\$319.35
Quicken Software	\$51.99
Taxes	\$33.00
Uncategorized	\$0.00
Web Fees	\$288.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,865.16</b>

📷 Rob O'Donnell



## 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](http://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

President: Eugene Hunn .....enhunn323@comcast.net // 707-981-7301  
 Vice President: Jeff Valfer .....jhvalfer@gmail.com // 415-524-3741  
 Secretary: Peter Colasanti.....peter\_colasanti@yahoo.com // 707-780-7296  
 Treasurer: Rob O'Donnell.....robodonnell1@outlook.com // 707-694-9776

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Field Trips: Malcolm Blanchard.....mab@mabco.com // 707-480-2210  
 Observations: David A. Hofmann .....nnamfoh@comcast.net // 707-546-0325  
 Christmas Bird Count: Eugene Hunn.....enhunn323@comcast.net // 707-981-7301  
 Kite Tales: Eva Valfer.....evaantonvalfer@gmail.com //415-524-3222  
 YAMS Coordinator: Lisa Hug.....lisahug@sonic.net // 707-535-9370  
 Membership: Rob O'Donnell.....robodonnell1@outlook.com // 707-694-9776  
 Website: TBD.....

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.