

KITE TALES

a monthly newsletter from the
Redwood Region Ornithological Society

Volume 58 Number 4

November / December 2022



Willow Warbler  Malcolm Blanchard



Next RROS Meeting
December 14th @ 7:00 pm



What's New on the RROS Website?

The most current and up to date info on Field Trips, Presentations, Meetings, and more can be found at www.RROS.org

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SAVE THE DATE

December's Membership Meeting :Wednesday, December 14th , 7:00 pm

First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Dr, Santa Rosa.

Meet in the McMullin Room, which is just east of the entrance to the main sanctuary.

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

This month's program: Member Sharing Event!

December's program will be the annual "fan favorite", an RROS Member Sharing event. Please consider actively participating with a sample of your photos, bird recordings, bird artwork, sketches, etc. and/or any other bird-inspired offerings.

Please e-mail Monica at fieldsketcher@gmail.com with your presentation ideas so she can arrange the program's flow.

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 3, 2022 Morning Owling at Sugar Loaf Ridge State Park, 5:45AM – 10:00AM

Early morning owling along the entrance road to Sugar Loaf Ridge State Park. Possible Spotted Owl and Saw-whet Owl. Probable Northern Pygmy-Owl, Western Screech-Owl, and Great Horned Owl. Ruthie Rudesill will lead us. Ruthie has some of the best "bird ears" in the County and great knowledge of owl calls. We'll meet on Adobe Canyon Road near the intersection with Highway 12 (38.4251438, -122.5559084) at 5:45AM. Owling is about hearing the birds, so please wear quiet clothing—nothing that makes noise when you move. Carpooling is encouraged. After sunrise (7:15AM), those who wish to, may join us birding the Meadow/Hillside trails loop. Sugarloaf requires a \$10 parking fee (\$8 senior) or annual pass.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Malcolm Blanchard (707) 480-2210.

Saturday - December 10, 2022 Sonoma Valley Regional Park with Malcolm Blanchard, 8:00AM – 12:00PM

Join Malcolm Blanchard for a trip to Sonoma Valley Regional Park. We'll tour the Oak Woodlands in the Park. Expect a lot of woodpeckers, including possible Pileated and other oak-woodland species. We'll also walk around Lake Suttonfield on nearby Sonoma Developmental Center land. Meet at the main parking lot off of Highway 12 (38.3643337, -122.5122477) (\$7 parking fee or County Pass) at 8:00AM. For more information or to RSVP, contact Malcolm Blanchard (707) 480-2210.

2022 Christmas Bird Count

RROS sponsors two Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs). The first is the Santa Rosa CBC, run continuously since 1962. You can read more about the early days of this pioneering count in the Kite Tales archives. Recently RROS agreed to co-sponsor with the Sonoma Ecology Center the Sonoma Valley CBC. This count is in its 18th year. Both are coordinated and compiled by Gene Hunn. If you are interested in participating, contact Gene at enhunn323@comcast.net.

Sunday - December 18, 2022 Santa Rosa CBC

Friday - December 30, 2022 Sonoma Valley CBC

Saturday - January 14, 2023 Cosumnes River Preserve, Peter Colasanti, 9:00AM – 12:30PM



The Cosumnes River Preserve is a nature preserve located 20 miles south of Sacramento on the Pacific Flyway. The preserve protects a Central Valley remnant that once contained one of the largest expanses of oak tree savanna, riparian oak forest and wetland habitat in North America. Join Peter Colasanti to explore this rich habitat. Expect Sandhill Cranes, Snow Goose, many duck species, and other over-wintering birds.

Meet at 7:00AM for carpooling at the Highway 121/116 Park 'n' Ride lot near Sonoma (38.2360345, -122.4611217) or at the preserve's visitor center at 13501 Franklin Blvd., Galt (38.2659136, -121.4400803) at 9:00AM.

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

Saturday - January 21, 2023 San Pablo Bay shore sites, 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 is encouraged.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Malcolm Blanchard (707) 480-2210.

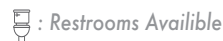
YAMS field trips are for school-aged kids and their chaperone(s)

Sunday - December 18, 2022, YAMS – Santa Rosa Christmas Bird Count 7:45 am to dusk and dinner



Redwood Region Ornithological Society founded the Santa Rosa Christmas Bird Count Circle in the early 1960s and it has been going strong ever since. The YAMS have a territory in west Santa Rosa. We meet at the Santa Rosa Management Association parking lot at 35 Stony Point Rd, Santa Rosa. Detailed directions will be provided closer to the date of the Christmas Bird Count. There will likely be a compilation dinner with the other teams and participants that evening where bird totals will be tallied and stories will be told. Details will follow as the time nears. Please bring your own snacks, water, lunch, binoculars, field guides, layered clothing, comfortable shoes and water.

To RSVP or more information, contact Lisa Hug.



Local Patch : Ernie Smith Park, 18776 Gillman Dr, Sonoma, CA 95476 Sonoma Valley

Sonoma County is a great place to bird. However, summer, here, is pretty slow. The spring migrants have flown through, the winter residents have been replaced by their summer counterparts. And that's it.

A few years ago, finding not much to look for, I looked around Sonoma Valley, where I live, to see if there was some place interesting I could bird. I noticed Ernie Smith Park. This is a suburban park and eBird hotspot which I had driven by a thousand times. At the time, it had exactly one eBird list associated with it, and, that list was incomplete. Total of nine species. Clearly this was a hot spot in need of some birding love. So, I decided to take this on as a personal project. I decided to try to bird this park once a week to see what was there. I've pretty much lived up to that. Not only did I discover new birds for the park, but I discovered that finding a new bird some place no one else has seen it is exhilarating. I still chase rare birds, but a local bird in a new place is almost as good. Hopefully, that rush can encourage people to go out and document the distribution of our birds.

Today I saw Killdeers flying over—the 58th species for the park.

-Malcolm

OBSERVATIONS

September 21, 2022 to October 20, 2022 // COMPILED BY DAVID A. HOFMANN

Species	Date/s	Location	#	Observer/s
Black-chinned Hummingbird	09/28/22	Santa Rosa---1334 Gordon Lane	1 m	ScM
Solitary Sandpiper	10/04-05/22	Stony Point Pond	1	AlW, Ma&LuS, JeV, CoH photos
Tufted Puffin	10/16/22	Pelagic trip---40 observers	2	LuC, EuH, LiH, EvC, ZaP, MeZ, Irl, CoW, MeJ, GeB, WhM, DaD, Ma&LuS, BrW, ChB, TeF, MaD, FrF photos
Black Tern	09/23/22	Buchli—Hudeman Slough	1	LaK, Ma&LuS video
Short-tailed Shearwater	10/16/22	Pelagic trip---40 observers	1	LuC, EuH, LiH, EvC, ZaP, MeZ, IrL, CoW, MeJ, GeB, WhM, DaD, Ma&LuS, BrW, ChB, TeF, MaD, FrF photos
Least Bittern	09/30-10/14/22	Ellis Creek Ponds	1	DoK, LiH, RiL, AlW, RoS, MoF
White-faced Ibis	10/02/22	Bodega Bay---Doran Regional Pk	1	RoW
Common Black Hawk X Red-shouldered Hawk	09/22-10/16/22	Santa Rosa Creek Trail x Willowside Road Delta Pond	1f	Brian Webb photos
Broad-winged Hawk	09/21/22	Jenner Headlands Hawk Overlook	1	AlG, DaB photos
Lewis's Woodpecker	09/29/22	Shiloh Ranch Regional Park	2	IaM, MSP
Lewis's Woodpecker	10/13-18/22	Nagasawa Community Park	1	JaD, BoH, MaG, GaP, MoF, BaK, AlW photo
Great Crested Flycatcher	10/17/22	Bodega Bay---Gaffney Point	1	PeC photo
Tropical Kingbird	09/24/22	Bodega Bay--No. Shore Rail ponds	1	ScS photos
Tropical Kingbird	10/13/22	Sea Ranch	1	KaW photos
Tropical Kingbird	10/17/22	Campbell Cove State Beach	2	GaP, DeH, MoF photo
Tropical Kingbird	10/16-17/22	Bodega Bay—Gaffney Point	1	Ma&LuS, PeC photo
Yellow-throated Vireo	10/03/22	Santa Rosa Crk Trail west of Willowside Road near pumphouse	1	Brian Webb, LiH photos
Blue-headed Vireo	09/28/22	Bodega Bay---Owl Canyon	1	DaN

Philadelphia Vireo	10/08-14 /22	Campbell Cove Hole-in-the-Head
Yellow-green Vireo	09/21-22 /22	Bodega Bay---North Shore Rail Ponds
Yellow-green Vireo	10/14/22	Campbell Cove Hole-in-the-Head
Grasshopper Sparrow	10/20/22	Occidental--Islands in the Sky Trail
Clay-colored Sparrow	09/27/22	Campbell Cove State Beach
Vesper Sparrow	09/23/22	Sea Ranch---Shell Beach Trail
Swamp Sparrow	09/24/22	Westshore Road mudflats
Northern Waterthrush	09/22-25 /22	Bodega Bay---North Shore Rail Ponds
Mourning Warbler	09/24/22	Bodega Bay---Owl Canyon RROS field trip led by Peter Colasanti---possible first county record---must be submitted to the CRBC for approval
Tennessee Warbler	09/27-28 /22	Spring Lake Regional Park
Tennessee Warbler	10/16-20 /22	Bodega Bay---Owl Canyon
Nashville Warbler	10/09/22	Campbell Cove--Hole-in-the-Head
American Redstart	09/27/22	Spring Lake Regional Park
Cape May Warbler	09/28-29 /22	Spring Lake Regional Park
Magnolia Warbler	09/21-23 /22	Bodega Bay---Owl Canyon
Blackburnian Warbler	10/16/22	Bodega Bay---Owl Canyon
Blackburnian Warbler	10/18/22	Spring Lake Regional Park
Chestnut-sided Warbler	09/21/22	Bodega Bay---Owl Canyon

1	Wh&AIM, JoS, LiH, ToB, ReM, Ma&LuS, DaT, WeD, MaB, GaP, EuH, BoH, JoL, CaR, JoS, RaL, ScC BrO, EIL, EmS, RAR, DoK, ReL, AIW photos
1	Ma&LuS, JeV, WeD, DeF, AIW, JoS, GaP, RaL, TiE, JoL, JeP, EuH, MaB, RAR, FrF, DaT, FrF, PeC, ToB photos
1	JoS, ScC
1	MoF
1	DaN, BrB
1	KaW photos
1	Pa&AIL
1	JoS, JoL, EuH, RAR, DeF, JaH, ScS, GaP, AiB photo
1	PeC, mob
1	ScM, TiE
1	AIW, EuH photos
1	JoS
1	MaB, BoH photo
1	GaP, JeV, RoO, TiE, PeC, StP, LiH, JoS, MaB, EvV, BaK, MaG, LoN, BrW, BeB, DoK, JoW, RAR, DaL, DaT, CoM, Ma&LuS, MoF, ReL, MiP photos
1	GaP, WeD, JeV, CoM, Ma&LuS, JaH photos
1	AIW, RyJ, GaP, BrW, Ma&LuS, LiH, CoW photos
1f	JeV
1	GaP, Ma&LuS photos

Chestnut-sided Warbler	09/27-30/22	Spring Lake Regional Park	1	CaR, LiH, JoS, MaB, EvV, MaG, BaK, BrW, RAR, CoM, DaL, DaT, Ma&LuS, ReL, KeW, ReO photos
Chestnut-sided Warbler	10/08/22	Bodega Bay---Owl Canyon	1	Wh&AlM, GaP photos
Blackpoll Warbler	09/30/22	Santa Rosa Creek Trail west of Willowside Road	1f	Brian Webb photos
Blackpoll Warbler	10/08/22	Bodega Bay---Bird Walk prkng lot	1	Wh&AlM, Ma&LuS photos
Black-throated Blue Warbler	10/02/22	Pelagic/landed on boat on its way to Mexico in Sonoma County waters	1f	GuC photos
Palm Warbler	10/09-16/22	Bodega Bay---Gaffney Point	1	Ma&LuS
Palm Warbler	10/15-18/22	Santa Rosa Creek Trail west of Willowside Road	1	Brian Webb, GaP photos
Summer Tanager	09/22/22	Boyes Hot Springs-Riverside Dr.	1	JeV
Scarlet Tanager	10/13-15/22	Campbell Cove State Beach	1f	CaR, LiH, ToB, ReM, GaP, DaN, MaB, JeV, RAR photos
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	09/24/22	Russian Gulch State Beach	1	Ma&LuS photo

OBSERVERS FOR THIS PERIOD

David Barry • Brian Barton • Chis Bekins • Beatrice Blanchard • Malcolm Blanchard • Tony Briggs • Geri Brown • Aidan Brubaker • Guillaume Calcagni • Scott Carey • Everett Clark • Peter Colasanti • Lucas Corneliussen • Jayson D • Wendy Dandridge • Mark Dettling • David Diller • Tiffany Erickson • Frank Fabbro • Dea Freid • Teale Fristoe • Mookie Fudenberg • Alan Glazier • Mary Grishaver • Connie Haile • Bob Hasenick • Denise Herzberg • James Holmes • Lisa Hug • Eugene Hunn • Ryan Janke • Megan Jankowski • Barbara Kendrick • Larry Kent • Donald Kirker • Rachel Lawrence • Rebecca Lawton • Rick LeBaudour • David Leland • Elizabeth Lewis • Paul & Alexander Linton • Iris Lombard • John Luther • Renee Masotti • Colin Meusel • Scott Morrival • Ian Morrison • Whitney & Alex Mortimer • Dan Nelson • Lori Norton • Brook O'Connor • Anne O'Donnell • Rob O'Donnell • Rebecca Olsen • Michael Park • Steve Pearce • Julian Peet • Jeff Perkins • Zane Pickus • Garret Pierce • Ruth Ann Rudesill • Casey Ryan • Monica Schwalbenberg-Pena • Josh Snead • Scott Sorby • Mark & Lucas Stephenson • John Sterling • Ron Storey • Emilie Strauss • David Tomb • Eva Valfer • Jeff Valfer • Joyce Waterman • Brian Webb • Brendon Westerhold • Alan Wight • Corinne Williams • Karen Wilkinson • Ken Wilson • Robin Winning • Meirun Zhang

OBSERVATIONS

October 21, 2022 to November 20, 2022 // COMPILED BY DAVID A. HOFMANN

Species	Date/s	Location
Harlequin Duck	10/29/22	Salt Point State Pk---Gerstle Cove
White-winged Scoter	10/29/22	Salt Point State Pk---Gerstle Cove

#	Observer/s
6	TRL
1	TRL

Short-tailed Albatross	11/07/22	Pelagic
Least Bittern	10/23-11/15/22	Ellis Creek Water Recycling Facility
White-faced Ibis	11/20/22	Delta Pond
Common Black x Red-shouldered Hawk	10/25-11/18/22	Santa Rosa Creek Trail west of Willowside Road
Lewis's Woodpecker	10/21-11/20/22	Nagasawa Community Park
Tropical Kingbird	10/22-28/22	Bodega Bay---Diekmann's Store
Tropical Kingbird	10/22/22	Bodega Head State Park
Canyon Wren	10/30-11/12/22	Mount Saint Helena Trail---summit
Mountain Bluebird	10/01/22	Mount Saint Helena Trail
Townsend's Solitaire	10/30-11/12/22	Mount Saint Helena Trail---summit
Townsend's Solitaire	11/20/22	Helen Putnam Regional Park
Phainopepla	10/29-11/03/22	Foothill Regional Pk---Oakwood Trail
Evening Grosbeak	11/03/22	Spring Lake Regional Park

1	MiR photo
3	EIC, BrW, ScM, EIL, LiH, HeA
1	BrW photos
1f	BrW, DaF photo
1	MoD, LaN, ScM, GaP, AlW, RoO, AnO, CoW, MaG, PeD, DaS, EIC, BrW, DaM, TrD, MaL, DeH, WVD, NoO, KeL, DaS, JoS, AlW, ThK, RuC, JuH photos
1	Ma&LuS, AlR photos
1	JaS photos
1	Ma&LuS, GaP, MaB, PeC, JeV, CoM photos
1	Ma&LuS photos
11	Ma&LuS, GaP, MaB, PeC, EuH, JeV, CoM photos
1	PeC
1f 1m	MaG, Ma&LuS, ScM, EIC, BaK, MaG photos
2	ScM

OBSERVERS FOR THIS PERIOD

Heather Anderson • Malcolm Blanchard • Scott Carey • Peter Colasanti • Ruth Cooper • Elizabeth Crouthamel • Willem Van Dam • Peter Dellavalle • Tracy Dellavalle • Molly Donahue • Kasey Foley • Dawna Foreman • Mary Grishaver • Justin Herrell • Denise Herzberg • Eugene Hunn • Thomas Koffel • Mary Lamke • Kelly Lamke • Rebecca Lawton • T Richard Leary • Elizabeth Lewis • Dan Maxwell • Colin Meusel • Gayle Dangers-Meusel • Scott Morrical • Larry Nigro • Ann O'Donnell • Rob O'Donnell • Norm Ortman • Garrett Pierce • Levi Rehberg • Carolyn Rich • Michael Rigney • Alex Rinkert • David Schmidt • Josh Snead • Jackie Sones • Mark & Lucas Stephenson • Bian Webb • Brendon Westerhold • Alan Wight • Corrine Williams



ABOUT RROS

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

Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month October through April, at 7 pm at the First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Dr, Santa Rosa.

Sept & May meetings are held outside at 5:30pm.

Annual dues are \$20 per individual, \$25 per family, and \$5 per student.

Membership forms can be found at www.rros.org/join-rros

Dues can be sent to RROS Treasurer Bob Hasenick, 4453 La Paz Lane, Santa Rosa, CA 95404-9510

Visit us on the web at www.RROS.org

RROS STAFF

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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.