


KITE TALES

a monthly newsletter from the
Redwood Region Ornithological Society

Volume 58 Number 2

October 2022



Blue Grosbeak  JeffValfer



Next RROS Meeting
October 12th @ 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

October Membership Meeting :Wednesday, October 12th , 7:00 pm

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

Meet in the Carriage Room, which is entered from Montgomery about mid-way along the front of the church.

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: "Winter Gulls" with Lisa Hug



Lisa Hug is a birder and naturalist living in Sonoma County, CA, specializing in the North Bay, which includes Marin and Sonoma Counties. Lisa has been an Interpretive Ranger at Pt. Reyes National Seashore, and a Research Assistant with Point Reyes Bird Observatory and the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. Lisa has served as past president of RROS, teaches birding in Marin and Sonoma Counties, and is the leader of the YAMS youth birding group. She is a wonderful teacher imparting her vast knowledge to students of all ages in a joyful and enthusiastic and gentle way.

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 - October 8, 2022 Huichica Creek, Larry Kent, 8:00AM – 12:00PM



Huichica Creek is a unit of the Napa-Sonoma Wildlife Area in Napa County on the border with Sonoma County. It hosts an abundance of water fowl and shorebirds. We will be led by Larry Kent, one of the top birders in Napa County and one who knows this location well. We will meet at the parking lot at Huichica Creek at the end of Buchli Station Road (38.2147295, -122.3318977). Drive past Hudeman Slough on Ramal Road. Once in Napa County, turn right on Las Amigas Road, then right on Buchli Station Road, continue until just past the railroad tracks. For more information or to RSVP, contact Malcolm Blanchard (707) 480-2210.

Sunday - October 16, 2022 RROS Fall 2022 Pelagic Trip #2



The birds offshore need our attention, if only to verify their continued existence. Two dates have been reserved this fall for offshore birding trips from Bodega Harbor aboard the 65-foot New Sea Angler; two Sundays, the first, September 18, and the second, October 16, peak times for offshore migrants and whale encounters. The standard route departs Bodega Harbor heading west to Bodega Canyon and the continental shelf, then turning south and east across the Cordell Banks.

What might we see? We should expect to encounter the usual suspects: Black-footed [and maybe Laysan] Albatross, Northern Fulmar, Pink-footed, Buller's, and Sooty Shearwaters, Fork-tailed and Ashy [and maybe Black, Wilson's and/or Leach's] Storm-Petrels. We might hope for Flesh-footed and Short-tailed Shearwaters, though they are rare and can be difficult to spot. Also likely are Sabine's Gull, Common and Arctic Terns, South-Polar Skua, Long-tailed, Parasitic, and Pomarine Jaegers, Red-necked and Red Phalaropes, Common Murre [Pigeon Guillemot near shore], Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets, and maybe a Tufted Puffin or a Scripps or Guadalupe Murrelet]. In short, you never know what might turn up. Cetaceans may be conspicuous, with numbers of Humpback and often Blue Whales [largest animal in the world] and perhaps a Fin Whale plus a variety of dolphins, porpoises, and pinnipeds.

Be at Porto Bodega by 6:30am to check in; departure at 7 AM.

To break even with this charter each participant will contribute \$170 (\$100 if a student). This adds a diesel-fuel/Ukraine War surcharge to the traditional \$150 fee.

To reserve a spot on one or the other or both trips, send a post-dated check for the appropriate amount (dated Sept 18 for trip 1 and/or Oct 16 for trip 2) made payable to the New Sea Angler (Bodega Bay Sportfishing Center). Mail them to Gene Hunn at 1504 Smokey Mtn. Dr., Petaluma, CA 94954. I will hold on to them until we sail. In case of cancellation by the Captain due to Covid retrenchment or terrible weather, your check will be returned.

- Gene Hunn, RROS Pelagic Trip Coordinator
(enhunn323@comcast.net; 206-450-0570)

Saturday - October 22, 2022, Ellis Creek, Craig Roth , 8:00AM – 12:00PM   

Ellis Creek is one of the best birding hotspots in central Sonoma County, where many rare birds have been documented over the years. We will be led by Craig Roth, who has participated in the Petaluma Wetland's surveys to this spot for many years. Expect water fowl and shore birds. Least Bittern were seen here this year, though they have probably gone into hiding by now. Meet in the parking lot off Cypress Drive, Petaluma (38.2268466, -122.5850014) at 8:00AM.

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

Saturday - November 12, 2022, Willow Creek Road with The Tufflis, 8:30AM – 12:30PM,   

Join Teresa and Miles Tuffli for a morning of birding along Willow Creek Road in Jenner. During raptor migration season, we'll have the potential for multiple species - Ferruginous Hawks, American Kestrels, Bald Eagles, and more. Many wintering and year-round passerines will be frequenting the willows, alders, and scrub. With a view of the Russian River, we'll look for some water birds as well.

We'll meet at the defunct Russian House #1 restaurant, and bird the road's entrance on foot. We'll then move all cars down the road to a large pullout. We'll bird the willows, creek area, and river view on foot before continuing down the road (birders are encouraged to carpool from there), stopping to bird various sections.

No bathrooms. Heavy rain cancels. Bring layers, water, lunch or snacks, and sunscreen.




Location & Directions: The address for the defunct Russian House #1 is 9960 CA-1, Jenner, California 95450. If coming from Bodega Bay, it's 9 miles north directly along CA-1 (15-20 mins), on the right just before the Russian River bridge. If coming from River Road/ Highway 116, take Highway 116 west through Guerneville, Monte Rio, and Duncans Mills until you reach the Y-intersection w/ CA-1. Head left (south) on Highway 1, and the defunct Russian House #1 is on your left immediately after crossing the Russian River bridge. 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 - October 9, 2022, YAMS – Annual Fundraising “bird-a-thon” 6:45am to dusk and dinner   

YAMS have participated in the annual “Point Blue Rich Stallcup bird-a-thon” since we were founded in 2014. This year we may also contribute some of our funds to Western Field Ornithologists. We will be just one of several teams participating in this event. The idea is to bird all day long and see as many species of birds as possible. We typically encounter around 120 bird species for the day. We bird all around Sonoma County, starting at the Sebastopol Community Center and ending at Ellis Creek Water Recycling Facility around dusk. We then have a celebratory pizza dinner at Mike's Pizza in Petaluma. This is a LONG day. But it's fun! Please bring your own snacks (lots), water (lots), lunch, binoculars, field guides, layered clothing, comfortable shoes and water.

To RSVP or more information, contact Lisa Hug.

Sunday - October 30, 2022, YAMS – Riverfront Regional Park 8:30 am - 12:30 pm   

Meet at the parking lot at Riverfront Regional Park at 8:30am.

<https://parks.sonomacounty.ca.gov/visit/find-a-park/riverfront-regional-park>

We will hike the 2-mile loop trail around Lake Benoist and have a picnic lunch in the redwood grove near the parking lot. This is a very diverse park with mature riparian forest, redwood forest and 2 lakes and the Russian River. This is a very good area for a wide variety of forest birds. Please bring your own snacks, water, lunch, binoculars, field guides, layered clothing, comfortable shoes and water.

To RSVP or more information, contact Lisa Hug.

Sunday - November 20, 2022, YAMS – Jenner Headlands Preserve 8:30 am - 12:30 pm   

Meet at 8:30am at the Jenner Headlands parking lot. The Preserve is a couple miles north of Jenner on Highway 1 <https://wildlandsconservancy.org/preserves/jennerheadlands>. We will hike up into the grasslands overlooking the ocean. This is one of the best places to view raptors in Sonoma County. Please bring your own snacks, water, lunch, binoculars, field guides, layered clothing, comfortable shoes and water.

To RSVP or more information, contact Lisa Hug.



OBSERVATIONS

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

Species	Date/s	Location	Ct y	#	Observer/s
White-winged Dove	09/03/22	Bodega Hwy x Joy Road	SO N	1	ScC
Red Knot	08/21/22	Doran Regional Park	SO N	2	Ma&LuS, ReC
Red Knot	08/26/22	Westside Regional Park	SO N	3	Ma&LuS
Curlew Sandpiper	08/27/22	Bodega Bay---Smith Bros. Road	SO N	1	Ma&LuS, Ma&BeB, GaP, LiH, An&ROD photos
Rock Sandpiper	08/25/22	Bodega Head State Park	SO N	1	LoK photos
Scripp's Murrelet	08/21/22	Pelagic trip---40 observers	SO N	1	Ma&LuS, mob
Tufted Puffin	08/21/22	Pelagic trip---40 observers	SO N	1	LoK, JaS, AlW, RiL, AiB mob photos
Common Tern	08/28/22	Wright's Beach State Park	SO N	1	LiH
Common Tern	09/12/22	Doran Regional Park	SO N	3	LiH
Arctic Tern	08/21/22	Pelagic trip---40 observers	SO N	1	Ma&LuC, mob
Red-footed Booby	09/11/22	Sebastopol---5100 Thomas Road	SO N	1	RaR photos
Least Bittern	08/25-09/11/22	Ellis Creek Ponds	SO N	2	RoS, EIC, La&IvM, BrM
White-faced Ibis	09/11/22	Santa Rosa Crk Trail---Delta Pond	SO N	1	BrW photos
Broad-winged Hawk	09/17/22	Russian Gulch	SO N	1	ScC
Broad-winged Hawk	09/17/22	Willow Creek Road	SO N	1	Ma&LuS photos
Common Black Hawk X Red Shouldered Hawk	08/24-09/19/22	Santa Rosa Creek Trail west of Willowside Road	SO N	1f	BrW, Ja&PeM, LiS, TeP
Tropical Kingbird	09/19/22	Sea Ranch---Shell Beach	SO N	1	KaW photos
Eastern Kingbird	09/02/22	Bodega Marine Laboratory	SO N	1	JaS, BrO, EuH, Ma&LuS photos
Red-eyed Vireo	09/16/22	Bodega Dunes Campground	SO N	1	DeS
Bobolink	09/11/22	Willow Creek Road	SO N	1	CoM heard only, recorded
Northern Waterthrush	08/25-26/22	Campbell Cove State Park	SO N	1	LoK, Ma&LuS photos
Northern Waterthrush	09/10-12/22	Willow Creek Road	SO N	1	Ma&LuS. CoC, DoH, PhB, RiP, GaP photo
Northern Waterthrush	09/16/22	Bodega Dunes Campground	SO N	1	DeS, Ma&LuS

Tennessee Warbler	08/31/22	Turner area---Braehurst Lane yard	SO N	1	DaL
Tennessee Warbler	09/01/22	Sea Ranch---Stengel Beach	SO N	1	LiH
Tennessee Warbler	09/07/22	Bodega Bay---Owl Canyonl	SO N	1	Ma&LuS
American Redstart	08/30-31/ 22	Bodega Bay---Owl Canyon	SO N	1	GaP, EuH photos
American Redstart	09/03-06/ 22	Russian Gulch State Park	SO N	1 m	ScC, GaP
American Redstart	09/10-12/ 22	Willow Creek Road	SO N	1f	Ma&LuS, GaP photo
Northern Parula	09/10-11/ 22	Willow Creek Road	SO N	1	Ma&LuS, DoH, RiP, PhB, CoC photo
Blackpoll Warbler	09/17/22	Bodega Bay---Owl Canyon	SO N	1	Ma&LuS, CoM, CrD photos
Prairie Warbler	09/10-11/ 22	Willow Creek Road	SO N	1	Ma&LuS, CoC, DoH
Summer Tanager	08/22-09/ 18/22	Boyes Hot Sprgs-- Riverside Drive	SO N	1 m	JeV, EvV
Summer Tanager	09/03-04/ 22	Sebastopol---Memory Lawn Cem.	SO N	1 m	DaD, BrM, BaM photos
Summer Tanager	09/06/22	Kenwood yard	SO N	1f	RAR
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	09/16/22	Bodega Bay--Owl Canyon	SO N	1f	DeS, Ma&LuS, GaP photo
Blue Grosbeak	08/30-09/ 02/22	Petaluma yard---1200 Pet. Blvd N.	SO N	1f	LeR, GaP, CoM, Ma&LuS, JeV, EuH, MaB, BW, ROD, DaT, EvV, JiC, CoH, EIL photos

OBSERVERS FOR THIS PERIOD

Aidan Brubaker • Malcolm & Beatrice Blanchard • Phil Burton • Scott Carey • Connor Cochrane • Lucas Corneliussen • Reef Comer • Elizabeth Crouthamel • Jim Crumpler • David Diller • Craig Dodson • Connie Haile • Douglas Hall • Lisa Hug • Eugene Hunn • Nancy Hunn • Logan Kahle • Rick LeBaudour • Elizabeth Lewis • David Lumpkin • Bruce Mast • Barry Mast • Larry & Iva Maurin • Jay & Perri McGowan • Colin Meusel • Brook O'Connor • Orion O'Connor • Anne & Rob O'Donnell • Teresa Paxton • Rita Phillips • Garret Pierce • Rajan Rao • Levi Rehberg • Ruth Ann Rudesill • Livia Santana • Dessi Sieburth • Jackie Sones • Mark & Lucas Stephenson • Ron Storey • David Tomb • Eva Valfer • Jeff Valfer • Brian Webb • B Westerhold • Alan Wight • Karen Wilkinson

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El Encanto Reserve Ecoturistica

written by Beatrice Blanchard

High in the Andes southeast of Cali, Colombia, outside the town of Palastina in the Huila region, is a sweet preserve and bird sanctuary visited by birders and general tourists alike. Catch a ride with a local in a dusty pickup near the Palastina plaza, and they'll transport you miles up the rutted switchbacks and narrow passes to an enchanting clearing, the home of the Molina-Cruz family.

Once primarily a coffee plantation, this acreage has been developed by the family to promote ecotourism. In the process, they figure, they will save this picturesque land for generations. They share the property with feathered friends like the Shining Green hummingbird, Tolima Dove, the Golden-eared Tanager.

On the property, there is a two-story bamboo lodge, with outdoor kitchen and dining tables for guests. Hand-hewn steps lead to the inn, or cottages, all bamboo with quiet panoramas of the surrounding mountains. Here, the family hosts their guests - farm stays, birding retreats, and lone hikers.

Important to birders are the 350 species of birds visiting the property. The Colombian Chachalaca, Andean Emerald, Indigo-capped Hummingbird, Velvet-fronted Euphonia, Gorsetted Woodstar and others, visit the plethora of feeders placed at the far end of a grassy stretch.



But it is the visit to an adjoining property further up the mountain that is most thrilling. There, the family leads you on a slippery track through the densest of rain forests. Silent but for the drizzling rain and distant calls of a White-bellied Antpitta, one is transported. Suddenly, an unexpected mudslide impedes your progress on the trail. But the Molinas know instantly what to do. Out comes the machete, palm fronds and logs are laid across, and you are safely led to a look-out. Hacked out of the moist green forest, you are provided sweet hot coffee from a thermos, and a hand cleaved chair to rest. You are shown the hidden bird blinds from which to watch a Violet-fronted Brilliant hummingbird, and White-throated Quail Dove and the Chestnut-capped Brushfinch. Need a bathroom? The Molinas are prepared: from a secret cache, a roll of TP is brought forth, and you are saved from embarrassment.

Visit the Molina-Cruz family next time you are in Colombia. They can use the help from appreciative Americans in their pursuit to keep this mountain region open to the birds.

Welcome New Members!!!

Cathy Beck of Bodega Bay • Craig Cheevers of Healdsburg • Kris Richmond of Windsor

DONATIONS

Cynthia & John Rathkey, *in memory of Andy LaCasse*

James Fritzhand, *honor or memory of Terry Colborn*

Diane Hichwa, *in memory of Bryant Hichwa*

Eugene & Nancy Hunn, *in memory of Andy LaCasse*

Rick & Heidi LeBaudour, *in memory of Sally Parmeter*

Charles Vaughn, *in honor of Mike Parmeter*

Ruth Rudesill, *in memory of Andy LaCasse and Sally Parmeter*

Rita Bevans, *in memory of William Bevans*

David Donnenfield, *in honor or memory of Louis Donnenfield*

Linda Hornstein, *in memory of Joe Hornstein*

John Klobas, *in honor of Benjamin D. Parmeter*

Chris Bekins

Mark Butler & Mary Ann Rotella

Julie Clark

David Donnenfield

Will & Karen German

Victoria Jackson

Jack & Marilyn Jones

David Leland

Kris Richmond

Cynthia & John Rathkey

Suzanne Reta

Tom Reynolds



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

OFFICERS

President: Eugene Hunnenhunn323@comcast.net // 707-981-7301
 Vice President: Monica Schwalbenberg-Peñafieldsketcher@gmail.com // 707-479-2949
 Secretary: Peter Colasanti.....peter_colasanti@yahoo.com // 707-780-7296
 Treasurer: Bob Hasenick.....bobhasenick@att.net // 707-486-0055

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Field Trips: Malcolm Blanchard.....mab@mabco.com // 707-480-2210
 Observations: David A. Hofmannnnamfoh@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: Bob Hasenick.....bobhasenick@att.net // 707-486-0055
 Website: Katharine Branstetter.....kathbran@well.com

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.