

# KITE TALES

a monthly newsletter from the  
Redwood Region Ornithological Society

Volume 57 Number 1

September 2021



Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher  Rob O'Donnell



**Next RROS General Meeting**  
**September 8th // 5:30 pm**  
**@ Sugarloaf State Park**



**What's New on the RROS Website?**  
The brand new Archives page is live! Read a history of RROS and peruse Kite Tales issues all the way back to the newsletter's debut in 1967!  
[Read more at www.RROS.org/kitetalearchives](http://www.RROS.org/kitetalearchives)

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## SAVE THE DATE

### September Membership Meeting: Wednesday, September 8th Sugarloaf State Park , 5:30 pm

Meet at Sugarloaf at the picnic tables on the right, just past the entrance kiosk and across from the main parking lot. Come earlier for late afternoon birding and/or stay after dinner for a late evening bird walk out towards the observatory.

Outdoor dining at the picnic tables near the first parking lot. BYO - everything. Only share safely!!

If desired, bringing your own camp chair and/or blanket to help with safe distancing. Even though we'll be outdoors, social distancing and mask-wearing will be strongly encouraged to the extent practical.

**Where:** Sugarloaf Ridge State Park.

**Directions:** From Hwy 12 East, about 6 miles beyond Calistoga Road, take a left on Adobe Rd. Follow Adobe Rd to its end in the park. Main parking lot is on the left, past the entrance kiosk.

**What to Know:** State Park entrance fee is \$10 per car / \$8 for senior or student. Covered with California State Parks pass.

## 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 - September 11, 2021, Pt. Reyes 7:30 am - 1:00 pm

Join us for the inauguration of the 2021-22 birding season with a trip to Point Reyes in search of seasonal vagrants. Lucas Corneliussen, an accomplished, young Marin County birder, will lead us. Meet at the White House Pool parking lot near the intersection of Sir Francis Drake and Bear Valley Road (38.0622416, -122.8168005) between 7:30 and 8:00AM. Bring lunch. Carpooling among vaccinated birders is encouraged.

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

#### Saturday - September 25, 2021, Bodega Bay 8:00 am

Continuing our quest for seasonal vagrants, of sea and shore, we will scour the environs of Bodega Bay (e.g. Doran Spit, Rail Ponds and north shore, west shore, Owl Canyon, Campbell Cove, Hole-in-the-Head, with a potential Salmon Creek extension). Gene Hunn, will lead us. Meet at Porto Bodega (38.3333037, -123.0512802) at 8:00AM. Bring lunch. Carpooling among vaccinated birders is encouraged.

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

#### Saturday - October 9, 2021, 5:45AM-10:00AM, morning owling at Sugar Loaf Ridge State Park

Early morning owling along the entrance road to Sugar Loaf Ridge State Park. Possible Northern Spotted Owl, Long-eared Owl, or Saw-whet Owl. Probable Northern Pygmy-Owl and Western Screech-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 among vaccinated birders 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.

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

**Saturday - October 23, 2021, Willow Creek Road 8:30 - 12:30**   

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 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 (vaccinated 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 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 Russian House #1 is on your left immediately after crossing the Russian River bridge.

**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 - September 5, 2021, YAMS "O" Bodega Bay - 8:00 am - Noon**

This field trip is designated as "O." Meet at Porto Bodega at 8:00 AM. Birding from at least 8:00 AM to Noon — but some possible scoping involved, and we may extend until 3:00 PM depending on the birds.

**■ Sunday - September 19, 2021, YAMS "O" Point Reyes - 8:00 am - Noon**

This field trip is designated as "O". Point Reyes National Seashore (Petaluma Park and Drive at corner of Hwy 101 and Hwy 116 at 7:45am)



Bring Lunch



Bring Water



Restrooms Not Available



Restrooms Available



Parking Fee

## Field Trip Report : Bodega Bay Spring Pelagic

### Bodega Bay Pelagic Birding Trip, May 23, 2021, Blow by Blow.

On the heels of an outstanding spring cruise in April out of Bodega Harbor, Lucas Corneliusen rounded up another crew of dedicated sea bird aficionados to brave the fierce NW winds of our spring season aboard the New Sea Angler (Rick Powers, Captain), hoping for additional hyper-rarities. A late report from a research vessel of a Short-tailed Albatross the day before just eight miles off Bodega Head stoked the already heady enthusiasm.

The big pink-billed albatross failed to materialize (despite near record numbers of the more modest BLACK-FOOTED cousin), but no one was complaining as we docked after a long 11 hours in the saddle, as there were sufficient thrills to satisfy the most jaded lister.

The captain warned us at the start that if conditions warranted we might have to abort the trip. The gales of the previous week had moderated somewhat and we might get lucky. After wallowing through a nasty chop just offshore, we broke free into moderate seas and the captain was able to hit the throttle. Given the winds we headed due west out over Bodega Canyon and had to pass on Cordell Banks. Silver-backed Pacific Loons were heading north in formation near shore and Common Murre from the sea-lion rock colony were out in numbers. The first albatross was spotted rather near shore; a hopeful sign, the first of well in excess of 100 Black-foots seen, as we were seemingly surrounded by them throughout the trip. At one point we counted 82 on the water and circling about.

Northern Fulmars were common, many from the pale northern populations, but shearwaters were scarce. A smattering of Sooty and just a handful of Pink-foots all day. Likewise, small numbers of Rhinoceros and Cassin's Auklets off and on. However, a pair of ANCIENT MURRELETS and a lone TUFTED PUFFIN added spice, though these were but briefly noted or flying off at the horizon. FORK-TAILED STORM-PETRELS outnumbered ASHYs among the scattered sightings throughout the day.

A speeding PARASITIC JAEGER spotted over the harbor was the first of a goodly number seen offshore, with several close encounters of adults with spiky tails. A sharp contrast to our April trip, when Pomarine Jaegers put on a show. A dogfight between a parasitic and a group of SABINE'S GULLS showed off the jaeger's power. One close-up COMMON TERN and several in the distance joined the hundred-odd Sabine's for the offshore parade.

By mid-day the captain turned southeast out past the mouth of Bodega Canyon, a following wind making for ideal conditions. Sharp eyes at the stern soon picked out a high arcing, black-and-white pterodroma near the horizon, for the first of three HAWAIIAN PETRELS spotted, adding Sonoma County to the Marin County sighting from our April trip. The big lenses captured the details, even as we mortals struggled to pick out the bird as it banked at the horizon. Then, a tense alert from the bow as a dark shape hurtled at us at pterodroma speed. Dark, with a stubby dark bill, it could only be a MURPHY'S PETREL, a rare late-spring migrant from nesting sites at Pitcairn and Easter Island (named for noted sea-bird biologist Robert Cushman Murphy). Unlike the Hawaiian Petrels, this bird checked us out, circling over and just behind the boat, offering excellent photo ops.

Three PM and we were 33 miles out of the harbor, so we settled in for the long slog home, exhausted but satisfied. Spring pelagic trips have been rare of late, given the frequency of sustained northwest gales at this season, so the offshore zone at this season is poorly known. Thanks to Lucas Corneliusen's persistence and the captain's skill at dodging the nastier weather, we now have a clearer appreciation of our pelagic visitors. It is a marvel how our continental shelf welcomes avian visitors from such far-flung points as New Zealand (Sooty Shearwaters), Chile (Pink-footed Shearwaters), Pitcairn Island (Murphy's Petrel), Japan (Short-tailed Albatross), Alaska (Northern Fulmar, Red-necked Phalarope, Sabine's Gull), Hawaii (Hawaiian Petrel, Black-footed Albatross), and our own coastal colonies (Ashy and Fork-tailed Storm Petrels, alcids, gulls). A sea bird United Nations.

- Gene Hunn, Petaluma

## OBSERVATIONS

April 21, 2020 to August 20, 2021 // COMPILED BY DAVID A. HOFMANN

Species	Date(s)	Location	Cty	#	Observer(s)
Sooty Grouse	05/08/21	King Ridge Road	SON	1	JoS
Sooty Grouse	07/13/21	Stewarts Pt-Skaggs Spring Road	SON	1	RyK
Common Poorwill	05/12/21	Sugarloaf Ridge State Park---post RROS meeting	SON	1	Je&EVV, MSP, RAR, LiH, MalB heard only
Black Swift	05/12/21	Pine Flat Road	SON	1	DaN
Black Swift	06/23/21	Sebastopol---Hayden Avenue	SON	1	BrR
Costa's Hummingbird	05/13/21	Westminster Woods Camp feeder	SON	1m	RuS photos
Pacific Golden-Plover	05/04/21	Valley Ford Wetlands	SON	1f	ToB
American Golden-Plover	06/14/21	Salmon Creek Beach	SON	1	C Beck photo
Baird's Sandpiper	07/31/21	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	1	CYBC photos
Baird's Sandpiper	08/20/21	Santa Rosa Crk Trail---Delta Pond	SON	2	ReC
Semipalmated Sandpiper	07/04-10/21	Doran Regional Park	SON	1	NoA, EtM, LuS photo
Semipalmated Sandpiper	08/09/21	Bird Walk & Coastal Access	SON	1	LiH photos
Solitary Sandpiper	07/31/21	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	1	Eml, JaH photos
Solitary Sandpiper	08/19-20/21	Santa Rosa Crk Trail---Delta Pond	SON	1	MaG, BrW, ZaP photos
Parakeet Auklet	04/25/21	Bodega Bay pelagic---22 observers	SON	1	LuC, KeB, MarB, LiH, Ma&LuS, EuH photos
Tufted Puffin	05/23/21	Bodega Bay pelagic---many observers and photos	SON	1	LuC, Ma&LuS, DoK, EuH, MarB, MalB, ScC
Tufted Puffin	07/27/21	Bodega Bay pelagic---19 observers	SON	1	DaN, MaB photo
Tufted Puffin	07/27/21	Pelagic-3 miles west of Bodega Hd	SON	1	EuH

Laughing Gull	07/03/21	Bodega Bay—Gaffney Point	SON	1	DoK
Franklin's Gull	07/05/21	Doran Regional Park	SON	1	NoA photos
Glaucous Gull	05/08/21	The Tides Wharf area	SON	1	WhM
Least Tern	07/09/21	Doran Regional Park	SON	1	EuH photos
Sandwich Tern	08/05/21	Pt. Reyes—Limantour Spit	MAR	1	Ma&LuS, EdM photos
Short-tailed Albatross	05/22/21	8.5 miles west of Bodega Head	SON	1	MiF photos (fide PeP)
Cook's Petrel	08/15/21	Bodega Bay pelagic---25 observers and photos	SON	7	DaN, LiH, JoH, ToB, ScC, Ma&LuS, JoL, AIH
Hawaiian Petrel	05/23/21	Bodega Bay pelagic--- many observers and photos	SON	1	JaS, LuC, Ma&LuS, LiH. DoK, EuH, MarB, MalB, ScC, DaN
Hawaiian Petrel	08/15/21	Bodega Bay pelagic---25 observers and photos	SON	1	DaN, LiH, ToB, ScC, Ma&LuS
Least Bittern	07/03-08/20/21	Ellis Creek Pond "C"--two adults & 1 juvenile	SON	3	SaS, ErA, PrL, RoS, LiH, WeB, EuH, CoM, JeF, GaP, MaB, JoS, DoK, ScS, AIW, WeD, Je&EvV, EIC, EmS, DoP, SuS, EIC, CoH, RAR RoO, AnO, MaM, BaK, MaG, DaL, TiE Mal&BeB, DaR BoB, AnL, DaS SaC, AnP JoH, Eml, KeH, JaH, CYBC, KEM, JiC, JoH, WaR, TeC, WeB, PaD, DaM, ChN, HeK, BiD, Sc&LiT, RoL, YAMs f/t, mob photos
White-faced Ibis	05/17-06/01/21	Nagasawa Community Park	SON	1	MaG, LiH, WeD, BaK, JoS, KaM, RoO, DAH, DaF. AIW, Mal&BeB photo
White-faced Ibis	06/17/21	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	5	EIC photos
Swainson's Hawk	04/23/21	Sonoma Valley	SON	1	RiL
Short-eared Owl	07/21-22/21	Cypress Loop home-Bodega Bay	SON	1	Br&OrO
Northern Saw-whet Owl	05/12/21	Sugarloaf Ridge State Park—post RROS meeting	SON	1	RAR, MalB heard only
Northern Saw-whet Owl	06/03/21	Cotati--W. Cotati Ave	SON	1	ScS heard only
Prairie Falcon	06/05/21	Rohnert Park---Roberts Lake	SON	1	ScS fly-over
Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher	08/10-20/21	Santa Rosa Crk Trail-Delta Pond 2nd Sonoma County Record, 1st was September 1997—24 years ago	SON	1	BrW/LiV, LiH, DoK, RAR, DaSe, Ma&LuS, EtM, Eml, ScB, BaW, ToE, CIH, LiG, EuH, DeH JaH, KrD, DoA, JoS, RoS, MaG, DeL, ChN, CoC, LuC, DeF, CrH, DaT, DaLu, TeF MaSa, MaL, OsM, DaF, Je&EvV, DaSi, PaB, MaSc, FrO, JoK, ScC, MaL, NiB, LaN, JoSt, MalB, MaD, DoP, RiC, DaB, DoL, DaLe, KaM, DawL, RaL, RoO, KeW, ReO, mob, photos
Tropical Kingbird	04/25/21	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	DaSh
Bank Swallow	07/02/21	Campbell Cove Hole-in-the-Head	SON	2	GaF
Red Crossbill	05/21/21	Forestville—Pocket Cyn Highway	SON	1	JoS
Red Crossbill	06/06/21	Salt Point State Park	SON	2	DaM
Red Crossbill	07/23/21	Sea Ranch—Pebble Beach	SON	1	LiW
Lawrence's Goldfinch	04/26/21	Helen Putnam Regional Park	SON	1m	RaP, WyF photos
Lawrence's Goldfinch	05/05-12/21	Pine Flat Road	SON	1m	KEM, DaN photos
Black-chinned Sparrow	05/01-12/21	Pine Flat Road—beyond end of	SON	1m	AIW, DoK, LiH, RAR, Je&EvV, RoO, DaLe, EuH, DoS, MalB, ScC, JoS, DaLu, BeO, KeW, Ma&LuS, GoB, BoH, laM, ReC, TiE, CoM, DaN, mob photos
Black-chinned Sparrow	05/29/21	850-900 Adobe Canyon Road	SON	1	laM
Bell's Sparrow	05/12-17/21	Pine Flat Road	SON	1	DaN, DoK, LiH, DaLe
Grasshopper Sparrow	08/17/21	Petaluma—Queens Lane yard	SON	1	AIW photos

Yellow-breasted Chat	05/13-19/21	Santa Rosa Crk Trail-Delta Pond	SON	I	BrW, AIW, ScC, DoK, RoO, AnO, ReC photos
Yellow-breasted Chat	05/31/21	Bird Walk Coastal Access	SON	I	Br&OrO recorded
Yellow-breasted Chat	06/04/21	Geysers Road near Cloverdale	SON	I	GoB
MacGillivray's Warbler	06/03/21	Sea Ranch	SON	I	DaLe
Hooded Warbler	08/16/21	Santa Rosa Crk Trail-Delta Pond	SON	I	Ma&LuS, Eml, EtM, LiH, RAR, KiS, BaW, ToE, EuH, JaH, DoA, DeH, JoS, RoS, DaT Mal&BeB, CoC, LuC, CrH, DeF, MaSa, AIW, PaB, FrO, JoL, BaK, RiC, DaW, AIL photos
Blackpoll Warbler	08/07/21	FaFa House--Sonoma	SON	I	Je&EvW

## OBSERVERS FOR THIS PERIOD

Dorian Anderson • Noah Arthur • Erik Atwell • Patricia Bacchetti • Mario Balitbit • Nicole Barden • David Barry • Bob Battagin • C Beck • Gordon Beebe • Wendy Beers • Malcolm Blanchard • Malcolm & Beatrice Blanchard • Scott Bowers • Tony Briggs • Ken Burton • California Young Birders Club • Scott Carey • Samuel Chiriboga • Richard Cimino • Connor Cochrane • Reef Comer • Teresa Connell • Lucas Corneliusen • Elizabeth Crouthamel • Jim Crumpler • Wendy Dandridge • Gary Deghi • Mark Dettling • Patricia DiLuzio • Bill Doyle • Kris Dunlap • Tiffany Erickson • Todd Esterla • Gary Falxa • Wyatt Flood • Michael Force • Dawna Foreman • Dea Freid • Teale Fristoe • Linda Gal • Joachim Gonzalez • Mary Grishaver • John Harris • Bob Hasenick • Clifford Hawley • Jack Hayden • Joel Hedgpeth • Cris Heins • Derek Heins • Alex Henry • Kevin Hintsa • David A. Hofmann • James Holmes • Lisa Hug • Eugene Hunn • Emmett Iverson • Ryan Keiffer • Barbara Kendrick • John King • Don Kirker • Helen Kochenderfer • Donna Lamke • Matt Lau • Max Laubstein • Rachel Lawrence • Rick LeBaudour • Derek Lecy • David Leland • Dawn Lemoine • Robin Leong • Ann Linder • Albert Linkowski • Jasen Liu • David Lumpkin • Preston Lust • John Luther • Kate E. Magoon • Karen Meridith • Max Merrill • Colin Meusel • Kai Mills • Ethan Monk • Eddie Monson • David Moring • Ian Morrison • Whitney Mortimer • Oscar Moss • Christian Naventi • Dan Nelson • Larry Nigro • Brook & Orion O'Connor • Rob O'Donnell • Anne O'Donnell • Frances Oliver • Becky Olsen • Angelina Pavlosky • Michael Park • Monica Schwalbenberg Pena • Donald Pendleton • Zane Pickus • Garrett Pierce • Rachel Price • Peter Pyle • Wayne Rapp • David Robinson • Brandy Rucker • Ruth Ann Rudesill • Mark Sawyer • Mark Schulist • David Sexton • Doug Shaw • Ruth Shirley • Dave Shuford • Dan Sidle • Suzie Silverman • Sam Simon • Josh Snead • Jackie Sones • Scott Sorby • Lucas Stephenson • Mark & Lucas Stephenson • John Sterling • Ron Storey • Emile Strauss • Kirk Swenson • Scott & Linda Terrill • David Tomb • Jeff Valfer • Jeff & Eva Valfer • Liza Vekony • Liam Waters • Brian Webb • Dave Weber • Bart Wickel • Alan Wight • Ken Wilson • Young Ancient Murrelets

*Editors note : While Mike Parmeter takes a break from his Pishing with Parmeter column we are pleased to bring you a great interview between him and incoming president Eugene Hunn. The lengthy conversation will be published in October's Newsletter.*

*Also new for Kite Tales is the Birds of a Feather Flock Together series. Penned by BJ Blanchard, the short bios will explore the stories and backgrounds of esteemed RROS members young and old!*

# Birds of a Feather Flock Together

Short Bios of Birders



Say Good Morning to the incoming President of Redwood Region Ornithological Society.

Born on the cusp of the Baby Boom, Gene Hunn was a "folkie" before folk music was cool. One of those passionate kids ob-

essed (his words) with the escalating "folk music" scene early in the 1960s, teenaged Gene bought his first guitar at a pawn shop in Santa Monica. It was an \$88 Martin D-18 "dreadnaught" guitar - a brand which was later idolized by guitar geeks. From an ad on a music store bulletin board, he found a music teacher: the lauded Mike Seeger, half-brother of Pete, and a founding member of the New Lost City Ramblers, the folk trio that focused on traditional melodies and styles of the American South. So, ...just like that, Gene was hooked on music.

Peace Corps in Mendi, Wollega province, western Ethiopia in the mid-1960s was life-changing for Eugene Hunn. Among other propitious events, he encountered fellow-volunteer Nancy, his wife now of 54 years. A second encounter changed his life as well, when he was introduced to birding through fellow Peace Corps Volunteer Mike Huxley, of the Aldous Huxley clan. And so...just like that, Gene was hooked on birds.

Nancy and Gene married in October 1967. For their honeymoon, they went birding in Arcata.

The couple settled in San Francisco during the late sixties, spending free weekends as beginning birders. As novices, they confused, for example, Black Phoebes for Slate-colored Juncos (now lumped with Oregon Junkies as Dark-eyed Juncos) and, once, after a long hike over the city hills to the foggy Cliff House at Lands End, claimed surf birds in the distant mist as Leach's Storm-Petrels.

A chance meeting with Dave DeSante while birding on the Dumbarton Bridge led to an introduction to Rich Stallcup. At that time, Rich was living with his pet screech-owl Otus, at his parents' home in Oakland. Nancy and Gene had moved to Berkeley by then so were East Bay neighbors.

At that time, Art Wang, Jon Winter, Ron LeValley, et al., were the Bay Area "young turks" of birding, and they all birded together from Crescent City, California to Yuma, Arizona to bolster their lists of state birds. Gene and Nancy got to know Mike Parmeter at that time, and Gordy Bolander during some birding trips north into Sonoma County. Near Point Reyes Bird Observatory, they discovered nesting Spotted Owls just up the canyon from the Palomarin bird banding station.

Gene fell into an academic career that combines "obsessive attention to animals and plants, the field of ethnobiology, and comparative natural history", with a primary focus on the "Traditional Environmental Knowledge of Indigenous Communities". He contributed to the understanding of local knowledge of plants and animals in two Mexican Indian communities: Tenejapa in the highlands of Chiapas, and San Juan Mixtepec in the southern Sierra of Oaxaca, Mexico. Closer to home, he has worked with the Yakama and Umatilla Indian Nations of Eastern Washington and Oregon, doing ethnographic research and preserving old knowledge, while a Professor of Anthropology at the University of Washington at Seattle.

Since redeploying to Petaluma after retirement, Gene has been absorbed in building "a respectable Sonoma County bird list", and has uncovered a rarity or two. The "little gray job" Bell's Vireo was observed on an October hike and bike Bird-a-Thon Big Day in 2015 at Hole-in-the-Head. However, he may be proudest of the Zone-tailed Hawk that circled overhead near Sonoma on the 2018 Sonoma Valley Christmas Bird Count.

Favorite birding trips for the Hunns included three trips in three seasons to southeastern Arizona in 1968-1969, adoring all sorts of colorful hummingbirds and Mexican specialties. Their unrivaled Arizona favorite: the elusive Eared Quetzal, tracked down after a brisk hike to upper Ramsey Canyon.

Nancy and Gene have grown daughters, Amy and Serena, both married with children, five grandkids in all and not (yet) a birder among them.

-BJ Blanchard



# PHOTO GALLERY



Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher • Willowside Creek Trail, Santa Rosa  
📷 Rick LeBaudour



Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher in flight!  
📷 Rob O'Donnell



Acorn Woodpecker 📷 Rob O'Donnell



White Headed Woodpecker • Humboldt County  
June 2021 📷 Malcolm Blanchard



Baird's Sandpiper , Doran Beach Bodega Bay 📷 Rick LeBaudour



Sabine's Gull , Delta Pond SR 📷 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  
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 YAMS Coordinator: Lisa Hug.....lisahug@sonic.net // 707-535-9370  
 Membership: Rob O'Donnell.....robodonnell1@outlook.com // 707-694-9776  
 Website: Teresa & Miles Tuffli.....milestuffli@gmail.com // 707-331-2709

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.