

# KITE TALES

A monthly newsletter from the Redwood Region Ornithological Society



Royal Tern, Campbell Cove, June 9, 2023  
 3<sup>rd</sup> county record  
 Photo by Rob O'Donnell



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**Next RROS Meeting September 13 @ 5:30, PM**  
**Sugar loaf Ridge State Park picnic area.**

**What's New on the RROS Website?**  
 The most current info on Meetings, Field Trips, Presentations, and more can be found at [www.RROS.org](http://www.RROS.org).  
 If you missed a previous program, video recordings are available to stream on our website at [www.RROS.org/virtualmeeting](http://www.RROS.org/virtualmeeting).

### **A memorial, Liza Vekony:**

My sister, Liza Vekony,... birding was her passion these last several years... I've commissioned a memorial mosaic for her at Spring Lake. (The artist, Angelina Duckett, is excited about creating the first bird mosaic there; she said that birders often stop by when she's working onsite and share their binoculars with her!) It will feature some of her favorite birds, and I'm thinking of including their names below each--kind of a pedagogical mosaic.

Rose Vekony <[rose.vekony@gmail.com](mailto:rose.vekony@gmail.com)>

## Our first Membership Meeting for 2023-24

**Where:** Sugarloaf Ridge State Park. **When:** Wednesday, September 13, 5:30 PM.

**Directions:** From Hwy 12 East, about 6 miles beyond Calistoga Road, take a left onto 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.

Meet at Sugarloaf State Park, at the picnic tables just above the entrance kiosk (park on the left opposite the picnic area). Come early 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 starting around 5:30-6. BYO - everything. If desired, bring your own camp chair and/or blanket.



L. Kaplan foto

### President's Note

At the September membership's meeting we will be voting on a change to the organization's bylaws that alters the responsibilities of our Treasurer. Currently the Treasurer is required to provide a complete accounting of RROS's finances at each meeting. This last year, while recruiting for a new Treasurer, it became clear this put a burden on the position, and was not necessary. The proposed change requires the Treasurer to provide a complete accounting once a year. However, as a safeguard, the Board, at any time, may require an accounting. I recommend the membership approve this change. Here is the proposal:

The sentence, 'He/she shall submit an oral report to the membership at each regular meeting of the Corporation's revenue, expenditures, and current cash position.' shall be replaced with 'The Treasurer shall submit a written report to the membership of the Corporation's receipts, expenses, and current cash position annually at the end of the fiscal year, to be published in the following issue of Kite Tales, and shall submit interim reports for publication in Kite Tales as the Treasurer deems appropriate or if requested by the Board of Directors.'

**Malcolm Blanchard**

**RROS FIELD TRIPS**

We are not requiring field-trip attendees to make reservations, 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, unless you opt out. As always, car pooling is encouraged.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Garrett Pierce (415) 260-7406)

**Rick LeBaudour foto****September 10, 2023, 8:00AM – 1:00PM, Point Reyes, Ruthie Rudesill**

Join us for the inauguration of the 2023-2024 birding season with a trip to Point Reyes in search of seasonal vagrants and more. Ruthie Rudesill will expertly lead our group around several of the best hotspots here in California. Meet at the White House Pool parking lot near the intersection of Sir Francis Drake and Bear Valley Road (38.0622416, -122.8168005) at 8:00AM. Bring lunch. Carpooling is strongly encouraged.

**September 30, 2023, 8:00AM – 1:00PM, Bodega Bay, Josh Snead**

Continuing our quest for seasonal vagrants, we will scour the environs of Bodega Bay (Owl Canyon, Campbell Cove, Hole-in-the-Head, Rail Ponds, North Shore, West Shore, Doran Spit). Josh Snead will expertly lead us around Bodega Bay. Meet at Porto Bodega (38.3333037, -123.0512802) at 8:00AM. Bring lunch. Carpooling is strongly encouraged. Fees or County Park Passes needed for Doran Beach entrance. For more information or to RSVP, contact Garrett Pierce (415) 260-7406

**October 15, 2023, 8:30AM – 1:00PM, Bohemia Ecological Preserve, Occidental, Garrett Pierce**

This private preserve is run the LandPaths organization, and we have the privilege to bird and explore parts of this 1,000+ acre protected land located in and around the Dutch Bill Creek watershed. 6773 Bohemian Hwy, Occidental, CA (38.444229, -122.978521)

**October 28, 2023, 7:30AM – 2:00PM, Mount Saint Helena, Colin Muesel**

Please follow if you are available for this arduous 10 mile roundtrip hike to one of the great mountain peaks of the Coast Range, please join us for this memorable day. Known for being one of the few local spots to see both Townsend's Solitaire and Canyon Wren, this hike is as special as it is grueling. Convene at the parking lot across from the Mount Saint Helena Trailhead (38.652755, -122.599675) at 7:30AM sharp. Please pack lots of water, snacks, and lunch. No restrooms.

**November 5, 2023, 8:00AM – 1:00PM, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, Dominik Mosur**

Join us for a sojourn down to Golden Gate Park where we'll be led by Dominik Mosur, an expert of the area. We'll plan to catch the tail-end of migration and vagrancy along with plenty of resident favorites at "Chain of Lakes" (particularly North Lake) with a possible "add-on" to S.F. Botanical Gardens. Meet at North Lake (37.771057, -122.503341) Carpooling is strongly encouraged.

**December 2, 2023, 8:00AM – 12:30PM, Ellis Creek, Peter Colasanti**

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 Peter Colasanti, who knows Ellis Creek and the Petaluma Wetlands like the back of his hand. Expect waterfowl, shore birds and much more (perhaps the Least Bitterns will still be around?) Meet in the parking lot off Cypress Drive, Petaluma (38.2268466, -122.5850014) at 8:00AM.

**January 20, 2023, 8:00AM – 1:00PM, Gulls of Bodega Bay and Jenner, Eugene Hunn**

Who here doesn't want to improve on their Gull identification skills? To help us further our Gull understanding, Gene Hunn will lead us around Bodega Bay (Doran Spit, Gaffney Point, Salmon Creek) and Jenner in search of all the many different species that congregate around the bay in the height of winter. Meet at Doran Regional Park at the parking lot across from the Rich Stallcup Platform ([38.314249, -123.044244](https://www.google.com/maps/place/38.314249,-123.044244)) at 8:00AM. Bring lunch. Carpooling is strongly encouraged. For more information or to RSVP, contact Garrett Pierce (415) 260-7406

**UPCOMING YAMS Field Trips (for youth and guardians only)**

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.

**Saturday, September 9** – Point Reyes National Seashore (Meet at Petaluma Park and Drive at corner of Hwy 101 and Hwy 116 at 7:45am). This is a long day with lots of driving. We will return to the park and Ride between and 4pm)

**Saturday, September 23** - Bodega Bay (Port o Bodega meeting spot) 8:30am to noon, (some possible scoping involved) Meet at Port o' Bodega, 1500 Bay Flat Rd, Bodega Bay.

**Saturday, October 7** - -- POINT BLUE RICH STALLCUP BIRD-a-THON – (meet at Sebastopol Community Center at 6:45am) This is a very long day with lots of driving. We bird from pre-dawn to dusk and then have a pizza gathering at Mountain Mike's Pizza in Petaluma where we total our species counts and reminisce about the day. It is a fundraiser for Point Blue Conservation Science <https://www.pointblue.org/engage-with-us/events/>

**Sunday, November 5** – TBA

**Saturday, December 3** -TBA

**Sunday, December 17** – Santa Rosa Christmas Bird Count YAMS will have a new territory this year! It will include the Laguna Water Treatment Plant on ILano Road. This will be a more rural territory than our traditional West Santa Rosa territory. Also, all present and former YAMS are welcome to participate in the YAMS Santa Rosa CBC. We can make this "YAMS reunion event. Meeting place and time TBA. This is defininetly an all-day event with optional CBC dinner in the evening.

**UPCOMING BODEGA BAY PELAGIC TRIPS**

Aboard the *New Sea Angler* with Captain Rick Powers:  
September 3 and 24, \$180.

Contact Gene Hunn for details  
([enhunn323@comcast.net](mailto:enhunn323@comcast.net)).





## Meet your New Board Members for 2023- 2024

### Malcolm Blanchard, Incoming President:

A retired computer programmer, Malcolm has rediscovered the pleasures of Birding in his retirement. He lives with his family in Glen Ellen. A man of few words, his plans for the coming year include “keeping everything on an even keel”.



### Bob Hasenick, Incoming Vice President:

Bob is a retired Engineer living in Santa Rosa on rural land which has been tailored as bird habitat. He continues his multi-year goal of capturing audio recordings for as many of Sonoma County birds as possible



### Annette Roth, Incoming Secretary:

A Sonoma County native, Annette lives in Cotati with Birder husband Craig, and is currently an executive assistant for a major solar component manufacturer. She is an outdoors-lover combining kayaking, cycling, and hiking with bird watching, and appreciating the natural world. She looks forward to continued participation in our enjoyable RROS field trips and expanding her knowledge of birds and their habitats. Working toward expanding our membership, she anticipates meeting new members of RROS and sharing birding experiences.



### Geri Brown, Incoming Treasurer:

Geri has lived in Oakmont for seven years, and shares her home with a 33 year-old Macaw named Millie. A retired CPA, her goal is to keep RROS solvent. More ambitiously, she plans to figure out a way to add a membership “button” for membership pay and donate on the RROS website. A PayPal option might encourage younger birders, who don’t use checks, to become members.

### Gene Hunn, Incoming Past-President:

Gene, as Past-President, will serve as Advisor, Consultant, cheer-leader, and Wise Elder.



### Spring Camping Trip, Susanville/Eagle Lake/Lassen: Peter Colasanti reporting

Fifteen of RROS's hungriest birders joined our Eagle Lake foray June 1-4, many braving bugs and spooky night birds lakeside, some opting for the luxurious lodgings for which Susanville is much acclaimed. Our first group meetup was at Susanville Effluent Ponds, a fine big country water treatment plant, access thanks to Steve Stump, one of the top birders in Lassen County. Specialties included Common Yellowthroat, White-faced Ibis, lots of Bank Swallows, Willet and Avocet, and a Great-tailed Grackle seen on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

Friday the 2<sup>nd</sup> we met at Eagle Lake Campground (Hammond's Flycatcher) and then birded sites northward around the lake. Christie Day Use Area was rich, with a Red-necked Grebe on the deep end, Caspian Terns, and breeding Williamson's Sapsuckers and Pygmy Nuthatches. Some glimpsed Clark's Nutcracker and heard Crossbills. Along Pine Creek we picked up Gray Flycatcher, Lewis' Woodpecker and Black-headed Grosbeak. Rocky Point was good for Forster's Tern, shrike and lunch, we then continued to North Eagle Lake Campground where Rick Lebaudour found Common Nighthawks resting on lateral branches of junipers [see



Malcolm's photo in this issue]. Most of us stopped along the Route 139 lakeshore where we had a somewhat distant but splendid visitation by a **Northern Goshawk**, in my experience the only accipiter occurring in LAS. 3 stops in burn areas on our west shore return each produced Black-backed Woodpecker, [see Rick's photo] the last located by the Hunn and seen well by all. Our Friday's ravioli and potluck symposium was hosted by BJ and followed by a visit by Barbara, Ruthie and myself to Papoose Meadow where there was no Yellow Rail heard to add to the nighthawks, Long-eared Owl, and a very

erie, echoing Sandhill Crane duet.

Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> found us searching west and north from Eagle Lake for decent birdable roads and not-so-burned forest. Rick found some Evening Grosbeaks [see Rick's photo here] at McCoy Flat, we later had solitaire and Cassin's Finch en route to Butte Lake in Lassen Volcanic NP, where we took a hike and had lunch. Having reached Lassen's end, we went for Black Swifts at Burney Falls, stopping first at Baum Lake, both locations in Shasta County.

Mostly we broke camp and checked out Sunday morning as we all found convenient, ready for the drive back. A stop at Eagle Lake Road summit by Ruthie, Barbara and I yielded Thick-billed Fox Sparrow, a calling Mountain Quail and a displaced Yellow Warbler. One last look at the Effluent Ponds turned up a Spotted Sandpiper telling me to come back third week in August for more shorebirds.

Thanks to Malcolm for his fine eBird reports.

Attendees:

BJ & Malcolm Blanchard, Geri Brown, Barbara Goodridge, Eugene & Nancy Hunn, Rick Lebaudour, Brook & Orion O'Connor, Anne & Rob O'Donnell, Linda Petrusius, Annette & Craig Roth, Ruth Rudesill and yours truly.

**PHOTO GALLERY: SOME RECENT HIGHLIGHTS**



**Common Nighthawk / Malcolm Blanchard  
North Eagle Lake CG / 6-2-23**



**Evening Grosbeak / Rick LeBaudour  
Near Lasser NP / 6-3-23**



**Cassin's Finch / Rick LeBaudour  
Eagle Lake / 6-2/23**



**Black-backed Woodpecker / Rick LeBaudour  
Eagle Lake, west shore / 6-2-23**



**Eastern Kingbird / Rob O'Donnell  
Salmon Creek Road / 5/23/23**



**Scarlet Tanager / \ Josh Snead  
Hole-in-the-Head / 6-6-23**

**Observations April 21, 2023 to August 20, 2023**

compiled by DAVID A. HOFMANN

Species	Date/s	Location	Cty	#	Observer/s
Tundra Swan	08/10/23	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	Mike Hall, photos
White-winged Scoter	06/22/23	Jenner overlook	SON	1f	Colin Meusel, photo
Black Scoter	06/17/23	Bodega Head State Park	SON	2m	Thierry Besancon
Black Scoter	07/05/23	Doran Regional Park	SON	1m 1f	Scott Morrical, fly-by
Eurasian Wigeon	04/20- 25/23	Carmody Road--south pond	SON	1m	MoF, LiH, ErP photos
Sooty Grouse	05/20- 28/23	Upper King Ridge Road	SON	1m	CoW, LHC
White-rumped Sandpiper	06/08/23	Doran Regional Park	SON	2	Elizabeth Crouthamel, photos
Solitary Sandpiper	08/13- 16/23	Hudeman Slough	SON	1	SuK, MalB, BoH, BreW, GaP, MoF, EuH photo
Black Tern	08/20/23	Alvaro Jaramillo pelagic---The New Sea Angler	SON	1	m.ob.
Least Tern	06/27- 07/22/23	Hudeman Slough	SON	2	GaP, LuS, DoK, MalB, DaL, ScC, ReL photo
Royal Tern	06/09- 19/23	Bodega Bay---Gaffney Point	SON	3	EuH, ToB, ReM, LiH, BDP, EmS, JoL, JoS, RAR, ROD, AOD photos
Black Skimmer	06/06- 18/23	Bodega Bay—Gaffney Point	SON`	3	m.ob photos
Murphy's Petrel	05/07/23	LuC Pelagic trip—The New Sea Angler--40 observers	SON	29	m.ob, photos
Murphy's Petrel	05/08/23	Pelagic--M/S Roald Amundsen Science Center	SON	1	Brendan Murtha
Hawaiian Petrel	08/20/23	Alvaro Jaramillo pelagic ---The New Sea Angler—40 observers	MAR	2	m.ob
<b>Northern Gannet ---first for county</b>	05/04/23	Pelagic—R/V NOAA's Bel M Shimada 38.445042-123.481622	SON	1	Kirsten Lindquist, Dru Devlin, photo
Least Bittern	04/22- 08//14/23	Ellis Creek Water Treatment Facility	SON	2	m.ob photos
Tricolored Heron	06/08/23	Rohnert Park Expressway--- Bellevue-Wilfred Creek	SON	1	Audrey Glazier, photos



Common Black x Red-shouldered Hawk	04/21-08/11/23	Santa Rosa Creek Trail west of Willowside Road/Delta Pond (RROS Field Trip 04/22)	SON	1f	Brian Webb, m.ob, photos
Eastern Kingbird	05/22-23/23	Salmon Creek Road	SON	1	RiL, ToB, ReM, JoS, GaP, MalB, ROD, PeC photos
Red-eyed Vireo	06/17-29/23	Monte Rio---Bohemian Hwy	SON	1	ThB, JoS, MalB, GaP, ScC rec & photos
Gray Catbird	06/16/23	Campbell Cove Beach	SON	1	Josh Snead
Lawrence's Goldfinch	07/12-13/23	Rohnert Park—Brenda Way feeder	SON	2mf	SuG, MiG photos
Clay-colored Sparrow	08/10/23	Sea Ranch—Pipers Reach	SON	1	KaW photos
Brewer's Sparrow	05/13/23	Gualala Point Regional Park	SON	1	NaP heard & recorded
Bell's Sparrow	04/22-25/23	Pine Flat Road—upper	SON	2	DoK, WiG, BreW, EIC photo
Green-tailed Towhee	06/07/23	Campbell Cove State Park	SON	1	Eugene Hunn
American Redstart	06/15-26/23	Russian Gulch State Beach	SON	1m	ScC, JoS, DoK, BrW, MaK photo
Northern Parula	05/30/23	Howarth Park	SON	1	Scott Morrical
Northern Parula	06/22/23	Jenner Store area	SON	1	Josh Snead heard only
Northern Parula	07/11/23	Willow Creek Campground	SON	1	Seott Carey, photo
Magnolia Warbler	06/07/23	Campbell Cove State Park	SON	1	DaN, JoS, PeC
Magnolia Warbler	07/02/23	Willow Creek Road	SON	1m	MaS, LuS photo
Scarlet Tanager	06/07/23	Campbell Cove State Park	SON	1m	JoS, LiH, BDP, PeC, WeD, JoL, EuH, DoK AIW, ROD
Indigo Bunting	06/08/23	Campbell Cove State Park	SON	1m	Scott Carey

OBSERVERS FOR THIS PERIOD:m.ob = “many observers”; Thierry Besancon, Malcolm Blanchard, Tony Briggs, Scott Carey, Lee-Hong Chang, Peter Colasanti, Lucas Corneliussen, Sean Crockett, Elizabeth Crouthamel, Wendy Dandridge, Dru Devlin, Mookie Fudenberg, Will German, Audrey Glazier, Sue Gragg, Mike Gragg, Mike Hall, Bob Hasenick, Lisa Hug, Eugene Hunn, Alvaro Jaramillo, Susan Kirkbride, Don Kirker, Mark Kudrav, Donna Lamke, Rebecca Lawton, Rick LeBaudour, Kirsten Lindquist, John Luther, Renee Masotti, Colin Meusel, Scott Morrical, Brendan Murtha, Dan Nelson, Rob & Anne O'Donnell, Benjamin D.“Mike” Parmeter, Erv Peterson, Nathan Pieplow, Garrett Pierce, Ruth Ann Rudesill, Josh Snead, Lucas & Mark Stephenson, Emilie Strauss, Brian Webb, Brendon Westerhold, Alan Wight, Karen Wilkinson, Corinne 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 Sugar Loaf Ridge State Park at 5:30 pm.

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

Membership forms can be found at [www.rros.org/join-rros](http://www.rros.org/join-rros)

Dues can be sent to RROS Membership Chair, Nancy Hunn, 1504 Smokey Mtns. Dr., Petaluma, CA 94954

### Visit us on the web at [www.RROS.org](http://www.RROS.org)

#### RROS STAFF: OFFICERS

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Kite Tales deadline is the **20th of each month**, August through April. Observations may be sent to David A. Hofmann. Send all other content to KT Editor Gene Hunn at

[enhunn323@comcast.net](mailto:enhunn323@comcast.net).

