Next RROS General Meeting
March 13th // 7 pm

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Visit us on the web at www.RROS.org
SAVE THE DATE

Monthly Meeting:
Wed, March 13th, First United Methodist Church 1551 Montgomery Dr, Santa Rosa, 7 pm
Before the meeting you’re invited to join us for dinner at 5:30 pm at Mary’s Pizza, 535 Summerfield Road, Santa Rosa.

March Program: Join us for a presentation by John Sterling, master county lister and noted field ornithologist. John has worked with the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center in Washington, DC, and various institutions in California and Latin America, focusing on the ecology and conservation of birds and regulatory processes related to preserving them. John will discuss the changes in our knowledge of bird distribution and population in the Central Valley since the publication of Grinnell and Miller’s book on California birds in the 1940s. Loss of habitats, creation of new habitats, reduction of ranges, invasions of new species and other topics will be explored as we reconcile the fact that more species are detected now than prior to the book’s publication.

John currently has his own company, Sterling Wildlife Biology (www.sterlingbirds.com), specializing in tours, birding classes, research and environmental consulting for The Nature Conservancy, National Audubon’s International Alliance Program, CA Dept. of Water Resources among other organizations.

UPCOMING RROS FIELD TRIPS & EVENTS

Saturday March 9th - Owling Field Trip 7:00 pm (this is the night before Daylights Savings time starts) Bodega, Sonoma County

Meet at 7:00 pm at intersection of Fitzpatrick Lane and Salmon Creek Road. Please carpool and wear quiet clothes (no nylon shells, parachute material.) Owls that may be heard in area: Barn, Great-horned, Western Screech, Northern Pygmy-owl, Northern Saw-whet, and Spotted. There will be no calling/tapes for Spotteds.

Leader: Ruthie Rudesill 707-833-6026, cell 707-481-0768

If you have ideas of trips that you would like to lead or trips that you’d like to take, please provide them to Ruthie at ruthierr@sonic.net

RROS Needs YOU!

We need to get a slate of Officers ready for the March Meeting/Vote at April meeting. First of all, a very special thank you to all those who have volunteered! We have several positions that need to be filled for the 2019-2020 Season. There is a great amount of help available for those who are unsure.

• Secretary - Keeps minutes of the monthly meetings, including all business transactions and keeps all club records, except those kept by the Treasurer.
• Hospitality Coordinator - Arranges for refreshments for each monthly membership meeting
• Field Trip Chairperson - Plans trips and appoints leaders for these trips, send notices for Kite Tales and website.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Dennis Luz
Iris Lombard
Joseph Zeno (YAMS)
Brandon Holland and Elisa Martinez
My First Day of Bird Watching...

In June of 1956 a medical school classmate and I took a trip around the U.S. Ostensibly, this was to check out possible internships at large medical centers. My friend’s uncle had just given him a new Chevrolet sedan, which made travel easy. We visited Washington D.C., Philadelphia, New York, Boston, and Chicago. (I ended up doing my internship at Alameda County Hospital in Oakland.)

One of our last stops was in Grand Teton National Park where I bought a book entitled “Birds of Yellowstone National Park” by Harold J. Brodrick. I knew a bit about birds as I had gotten the Bird Study merit badge while a boy scout. Also, while attending 6th and 7th grades in the one room school (which is still, barely, standing) at Duncan’s Mills, the teacher (my mother) frequently gave me half days off to study birds and wildflowers.

While in the Tetons we decided to hike up the Cascade Trail. My friend, Dick, had a pair of binocs which he let me use to view birds. I was amazed how one could really see details on birds with this optical help!


I’ve used the old common and scientific names, which I’ll let you figure out if need be.

Arriving home in Guerneville a few days later, I immediately went to a sporting goods store and purchased my own 8x32 binocs. That was the beginning; have been a hardcore birder ever since!

-Mike Parmeter
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Cty</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>Observer(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tundra Swan</td>
<td>01/29/19</td>
<td>Lakeville Hwy Petaluma</td>
<td>SON</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>ScC fly-over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tundra Swan</td>
<td>02/06/19</td>
<td>Shollenberger Park</td>
<td>SON</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>ScC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eurasian Wigeon</td>
<td>01/24-02/12/19</td>
<td>Shollenberger Park</td>
<td>SON</td>
<td>1m</td>
<td>JoS, CoM, PeC, DoK, MaG, ScC, JeV, RoS photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eurasian Wigeon</td>
<td>02/10/19</td>
<td>Doran entrance pond</td>
<td>SON</td>
<td>1m</td>
<td>EuH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eurasian Wigeon</td>
<td>02/18/19</td>
<td>Hudeman Slough</td>
<td>SON</td>
<td>2m</td>
<td>CoM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redhead</td>
<td>02/06-10/19</td>
<td>Bodega Bay holding ponds</td>
<td>SON</td>
<td>1m</td>
<td>Br&amp;OrO, EuH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redhead</td>
<td>02/14/19</td>
<td>Bodega Farm Pond</td>
<td>SON</td>
<td>1m</td>
<td>JoS, LiH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harlequin Duck</td>
<td>02/02-03/19</td>
<td>Doran Regional Park</td>
<td>SON</td>
<td>1m</td>
<td>DoK, Br&amp;OrO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harlequin Duck</td>
<td>02/19/19</td>
<td>Bodega Head S.P.</td>
<td>SON</td>
<td>1f</td>
<td>DAH, BDP, MaB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-winged Scoter</td>
<td>01/24/19</td>
<td>Bodega harbor</td>
<td>SON</td>
<td>1f</td>
<td>Te&amp;MiT photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-winged Scoter</td>
<td>02/16/19</td>
<td>Sea Ranch coastal walk</td>
<td>SON</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>IrD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-winged Scoter</td>
<td>02/17-19/19</td>
<td>Bodega harbor</td>
<td>SON</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>NiK, BDP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barrow’s Goldeneye</td>
<td>01/19-02/10/19</td>
<td>Milt Brandt Visitor Center</td>
<td>SON</td>
<td>1f</td>
<td>BiD, HeK, DoK, ScS, Wi&amp;RB, Br&amp;OrO, MaB, Je&amp;EvV, JoS, photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ridgeway’s Rail</td>
<td>01/23-02/10/19</td>
<td>Port Sonoma</td>
<td>SON</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>LiH, JeV, DapH, MoF photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Rail</td>
<td>02/16/19</td>
<td>San Pablo Bay NWR</td>
<td>SON</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ma&amp;LuS, JoK, LuC, JoZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Rail</td>
<td>02/18/19</td>
<td>Skaggs Island (closed gate)</td>
<td>SON</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>CoM heard only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesser Black-backed Gull</td>
<td>02/05-06/19</td>
<td>Shollenberger Park</td>
<td>SON</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>NoA, BDP, EuH, LuC, Ma&amp;LuS, Ro&amp;AnO, DaL photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-legged Kittiwake</td>
<td>02/05-09/19</td>
<td>Goat Rock beach</td>
<td>SON</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>ScC, ReC, RoO photo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short-eared Owl</td>
<td>01/21/19</td>
<td>Goat Rock Road</td>
<td>SON</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Te&amp;MiT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short-eared Owl</td>
<td>01/30/19</td>
<td>Valley Ford-Freestone yard</td>
<td>SON</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>JoS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short-eared Owl</td>
<td>02/05/19</td>
<td>Bodega Bay Cypress Loop</td>
<td>SON</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>BrO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short-eared Owl</td>
<td>02/10/19</td>
<td>Skaggs Island Road</td>
<td>SON</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>MuB photo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Saw-whet Owl</td>
<td>01/28/19</td>
<td>Valley Ford-Freestone yard</td>
<td>SON</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>JoS heard only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis’s Woodpecker</td>
<td>01/28/19</td>
<td>Somo Village &amp; Credo High</td>
<td>SON</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>LuC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock Wren</td>
<td>01/26-02/18/19</td>
<td>Milt Brandt Visitor Center</td>
<td>SON</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>DoK, ScS, Br&amp;OrO, MaB, Je&amp;EvV, JoS, RoS photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Townsend’s Solitaire</td>
<td>02/11/19</td>
<td>R. L. Stevenson S.P.</td>
<td>SON</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>EuH heard only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris’s Sparrow</td>
<td>02/02/19</td>
<td>Hilliard Ct yard Santa Rosa</td>
<td>SON</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>ChN photo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This year, RROS made three donations of $500.00 each to the following programs:

Bird Rescue Center of Sonoma County, Santa Rosa.  
Living with Lions (Mountain Lion Research and Education Project), a part of Audubon Canyon Ranch at Bouverie Preserve.  
Native Songbird Care and Conservation, Sebastopol

We received warm thank you letters from them. A part of one letter, in particular, deserves to be shared. This poem was collectively written by a third-grade class who were educated about mountain lion behavior at Bouverie Preserve:

I am mountain lion of the night.
I am big, I am strong, I am tan.  I am nocturnal, a creature of the night, At night, I am the boss.
I am a predator, I am sneaky, I am a mountain lion and I like to eat deer.
I am shy. I am a creature of the night, the dark is my friend.
I carry my babies in my mouth.  I wish my teenagers were out of my territory.
I am neighbors with people, I wish I wasn’t shy. I am a mountain lion, I am!

This is just a reminder that even though RROS is a modest group of people who enjoy birding, we contribute to the study and conservation of birds, wildlife, and their natural habitat.
PHOTO GALLERY

▲ NORTHERN PYGMY-OWL
Bohemia Ecological Preserve 1/29/19 // Teresa Tuffli

▲ RUFOUS-CROWNED SPARROW
Sweetwater Springs Road 1/29/19 // Teresa Tuffli

▲ SNOWY PLOVER
Bodega Bay 1/24/19 // Teresa Tuffli

▲ WHITE-WINGED SCOTER
Bodega Bay 1/24/19 // Miles Tuffli

▲ HORNS GREBE
Dining on Bay Pipefish, Bodega Bay 2/24/19 // Lisa Hug

▲ When the birding is quiet, nature still gives you gifts.
Waterfall on Canyon Trail, Sugarloaf Ridge State Park, Santa Rosa, CA // Rob O’Donnell
Explore the newly redesigned RROS website!

Same address, RROS.org, and much of the same organization (no need to change a good design, thanks Ron!) but new format, updated and expanded resource page and a re-boot of “Members Rare Bird Gallery” that invites and awaits submissions from members (**see below for details). As we move into a new era for RROS.org, it’s time to look back on the first years of our internet presence and thank the ever-talented Ron Storey, who designed and launched RROS.org in 2004. To shed a little light into those relatively dark ages and acknowledge Ron’s work, consider this: the year 2004 was long before clubs like RROS had easy access to template-driven services like Squarespace, our new website host, that employs “drag and drop” of images, photos, and content to make a page come alive and inform. Webpages in 2004 required the webmaster to write a certain amount of code to construct and link pages into the site that we had then. For all of his work over the last 15 years, RROS is truly grateful to Ron Storey. On behalf of all RROS members, THANK YOU!!

Not to take anything away from our new webmasters! Thanks next goes to the uber-multi-tasker, Eva Valfer who set up and initially managed the website as it was transferred to Squarespace our current host. And this on top of continuing to edit Kite Tales and channeling the creative energies and budding bird watching skills of her two pre-schoolers. Eva is responsible and to be thanked for most of the initial communication between sites as well as “dragging and dropping”/re-entering events, photos, and other basics to get the new website started. She’s also largely responsible for ensuring that our current webmasters could see the potential and agree to take on the role of webmasters going forward. Enter the very creative dynamic duo of Teresa and Miles Tuffli (aka RROS webmasters) who dressed up the site just a bit more into what you see now.

Check it out – RROS.org: “About” page; up to date Events Calendar; expanded current and previous editions of Kite Tales (more photos, in full color); YAMS page, links to many wonderful bird-related resources; and more!

**RROS Members: If you wish to submit a YAMS photo and/or a rare bird photographed in Sonoma County, email your photo (highest resolution possible) to Miles & Teresa at RROSinformation@gmail.com, along with the following information: (1) Species Name, (2) Location, (3) Date, and (4) Photo Taken By.

The RROS website will also feature links to members’ personal photography galleries (Flickr pages, personal websites, etc.) Email your link to Miles & Teresa at RROSinformation@gmail.com.

Get to know Eva, web designer/Kite Tales editor extraordinaire and Miles & Teresa, new webmasters:

Eva is a mother of two and birder whenever possible. Although originally from San Francisco, Eva spent her formative years living in Southern California spending all her free time in the ocean while working in the action sports industry. It was her interest in holistic nutrition that brought her back to the Bay Area to attend culinary school. She found birding a handful of years later and has since enjoyed birding with her husband Jeff and their two kids. She is a passionate admirer of nature and bestows that love onto her children whether on their back porch or in the middle of the forest. Be sure to say ‘Hi’ if you ever see her (and the kids) out in the field, especially if you are in need of something to eat - she always has snacks!

Teresa and Miles are avid birders from Guerneville. Miles was born and raised in the Santa Cruz Mountains, and Teresa grew up a navy brat but spent much of her childhood in Japan. They moved to Sonoma County nine years ago from SF, where they met, and have relished their beautiful surroundings ever since. They have a blog called I’m Birding Right Now and enjoy volunteering their time with local nature-based organizations. They lead beginner’s birding walks for LandPaths at Bohemia Ecological Preserve, count raptors for the Jenner Headlands Hawk Migration Project, participate in the Petaluma Wetlands Alliance monthly bird surveys, and are currently training to join the Seabird Monitoring Program.
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.
Dues can be sent to RROS Treasurer Rob O’Donnell, 421 St. Mary Place, Santa Rosa, CA 95409

Visit us on the web at www.RROS.org

RROS STAFF

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Secretary : Rita Bevans..........................................................................ritanbill@comcast.net // 707-484-3704
Treasurer : Rob O’Donnell..........................................................robodonnell1@outlook.com // 707-694-9776

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Christmas Bird Count : Bill Doyle.....................................................shortbill@comcast.net // 707-483-8773

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YAMS Coordinator : Lisa Hug..........................................................lisahug@sonic.net // 707-535-9370

MEMBERSHIP

Membership : Rob O’Donnell.....................................................robodonnell1@outlook.com // 707-694-9776

WEBSITE

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.