

# KITE TALES

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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The Redwood Region Ornithological Society, commonly referred to by its members as the R.R.O.S., is an affiliate of the National Audubon Society. The purpose of the Society is "To encourage the study and conservation of birds and other wild life, and their natural habitat." The Society meets monthly, September through May, on the second Thursday of the month. Dues for full membership are \$3.00 per year, for an Associate member \$1.00 a year. The larger portion of the money collected from the dues is used to help support local conservation efforts, such as the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, COAAST, etc. "KITE TALES" is the monthly news letter of the Society. All dues paying members are on the mailing list. Subscription cost to nonmembers is \$1.00 a year.

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The December meeting of our Society will be held on Thursday, Dec. 11th, in Room 112 Darwin Hall, at the Sonoma State College Campus. Perry Shean will speak of Sea Shells and Shell Collecting in Panama Bay. There will be a goodly assortment of shells to illustrate Mr. Shean's points, and for your observation and study. Betty Guggolz (Mrs. Jack) has volunteered to provide light refreshments after the meeting.

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Our field trip for December will be the Christmas Bird Count;-

## The Tenth Christmas Count in Santa Rosa

On Sunday, December 21st, fifty observers in twenty teams will be covering the fifteen mile diameter circle centering on the Santa Rosa City Hall. We hope to find more birds than any previous count report for this area. (Last year it was 130.) All observers are welcome to the home of Mike and Sally Parmeter, 360 School Street, Cotati (telephone 795-5735) for refreshments from five o'clock on. At least one from each team must be there for the 8 PM COUNT REPORT. Gordon Bolander has been asked to be our "arbiter." Baron McLean is the count organizer and compiler. Call him, or write him at 1002 Danbeck Ave., Santa Rosa (545-0851) if anything comes up to make a change in assignment necessary. We thank in advance the 22 guests assisting the 28 RROS members taking part in this count.

If any birds not seen on the count day show up by Jan. 1st, (the end of the count period), write or telephone Baron McLean, Mike Parmeter, or Gordon Bolander. Our reports will be ready to be mailed by Jan. 5th.

Seventeen RROS members (9 of them not duplicate members) are assisting Madrone Audubon Society in the Western Sonoma County Count on Saturday, Dec. 20th. Baron McLean is also compiling this count, which also hopes to break its previous record.

Free-lance observing is welcome in both counts, and any species missed in territories will be added by free-lance observations. Please let Baron McLean know you are coming--he may need your help.

Baron McLean

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At our last meeting Fred Sibley, of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, gave us a very interesting talk about the Giant Condor and the efforts that are being made to preserve it from becoming an extinct species. He was most interesting, and we would like herewith to express our appreciation to him for his so willingly given efforts.

The Field Trip to Gray Lodge was rather sparsely attended, but Jack Guggolz reports that the birds at least were there in quantity. Mike Parmeter and Gordon Bolander were up the next weekend. Between the two weekends 75 species were seen. They must have been busy recording. Just read on: "There were tens of hundreds of thousands of Snow Geese, lots of Canada and White-fronted Geese, several tens of thousands of ducks, mostly Pintails, and several hundred Sandhill Cranes." Don't you wish you had been along?

Mike and Gordon also report that the Short-Eared Owls have taken over west of Snyder Lane, near the Rancho Cotati High School. Five were seen there one evening recently, at sunset. Barn Owls were there too. It is suggested, if you want to study them, you plan to get there about 30 minutes before sundown and wait for the birds to start flying.

Gordon reports seeing White-throated Swifts and Canyon Wrens at Monticello Dam on Lake Berryessa; and that the Red Crossbills are still around Timber Hill as of November 30th.

P.R.S.