

KITE TALES

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
VOL # 1 # 6 SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA JAN 1976

The January meeting of the RROS will be held as usual on the second Thursday of the month - January 8 - in Room 112 Darwin Hall at Sonoma State College. Dorothy Ratcliff will be the speaker with an illustrated story of her trip to Africa two years ago. If you aren't able to make a trip to Africa yourself this year, this is your chance to keep informed. We will also have some interesting side lights on the Christmas Bird Count. The Sheans have volunteered refreshments for the social hour afterwards.

Chairman Robert Failing has plans for the January field trip to the coast at Bodega Bay. Meet at the entrance to Dorand Park at 9:00 am on the 17th. If you assisted in the Bird Count on the Sonoma Coast that rainy Saturday, you know what we can expect to find on a good day (and of course the 17th will be a bright, shiny day with just a touch of crispness in the air).

We have five names to be added to our membership list which was included in the November Kite Tales:

David Hanes	3237 Midway Drive, Santa Rosa	95405	
*Mathew Keller	13290 DuPont, Sebastopol	95472	874-3663
Marianne Shepard	Box 141, Glen Ellen	95442	996-6131
Ernestine Smith	1524 Fair Oaks Ct., Santa Rosa	95404	542-3390
*Brent Wauer	2623 Cactus Avenue, Santa Rosa	95405	545-4897

Note: * New members

Four of our members helped with the Christmas Count sponsored by the Point Reyes Bird Observatory. Gordon Bolander, Brent Wauer, and Mike Farneter served as a team counting birds along the northern shore of Limantour Estero. Jack Guggolz served as organizer and compiler as he has done other years. For the day 183 species were noted by all parties despite high winds.

Mike reports that highlights of their sightings included White Pelicans, Snow Geese, a male Old Squaw in winter plumage, Common Gallinule, Red Phalaropes, Tree and Violet-green Swallows, Yellowthroat, and Rufus-crowned Sparrow. They were also fortunate enough to see an immature Cattle Egret at the Olema Marsh. The bird was quite confiding and allowed close approach. This is a first record of this species in the San Francisco Bay area.

Six of our members were guest observers in the Western Sonoma County count sponsored by the Madrone Audubon Society. In spite of the three inches of rain that day 154 species plus one "race" were observed with a total of 33,312 individual birds counted.

A detailed account of the Santa Rosa Christmas Count, sponsored by this society, compiled and stencils cut by our Baron McLean, is attached. (Thanks, Baron!)

- P.R.S.

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VOL. 4 No. 7

SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA

FEBRUARY 1970

FEBRUARY MONTHLY MEETING

In as much as the second Thursday of this month falls on the 12th-Lincoln's Birthday and a Holiday - our regular meeting will be on Thursday the 19th. PLEASE note the change in date. Our program will include a report by Clark Natkemper, one of our members, on the Sierra Club trip last summer into Mexico, to Puerto Vallarta, on the Pacific Coast north of Acapulco some 125 miles west from Guadalajara. Mr. Natkemper will have many slides to show us. We have seen some of his photographic work before, and know that it will be a most interesting evening.. A social hour will follow the meeting with refreshments volunteered by Jean Bishop. (Thank you, Jean)

FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP

Our Field Trip this month is to the San Hill Cranes, near Thornton. We will meet at 10:00 a.m., on Saturday, February 21st, at the East end of the bridge across from Rio Vista. Quoting Mr. Failing, our Field Trip Chairman, "The town of Rio Vista is easy to find and is on the road map." Go out Route 80 towards Travis AFB turning off on Route 12 throu Fairfield. Rio Vista is about 21 miles east of Fairfield on Route 12.) We will leave the meeting place in a group and go to Thornton, birding on the way, where we meet the State Ranger at about 11:00 a.m. We will have a chance to talk with him about the cranes and other birds. Besides the cranes we should see swans, geese and perhaps the Rough-legged Hawk as well as other hawks. Mr. Failing adds that for wildlife-minded travelers the Elk-Horn Cafe in Rio Vista is well worth while, and a big surprise for anyone who has not been there. Lunch, or coffee, anybody?

JANUARY FIELD TRIP

The Field Trip on Jan 17th was noteworthy in that there were more rare birds than there were birders! Amongst the even 100 species seen, there were two Cattle Egrets, two Marbled Murrelets, an immature Northern Shrike, and a female Oldsquaw. There were only four birdwatchers along!

JANUARY SIGHTINGS

The birds are here this winter, even if you haven't been seeing them. Just read the sightings reported by Bolander and Parmeter.

At Bodega Bay 1/10/70

Arctic Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Fulmar, Redhead, Common Scoter, Osprey, Black Oystercatcher, Snowy Plover, Rock Sandpiper (4), Knot, American Avocet, Red Phalarope, Black-legged Kittiwake, Pygmy Owl (Willow Creek Road), Northern Shrike (one immature.)

At Olema Marsh, Marin County 1/15/70

Cattle Egret (two birds together, at White-House Pool)
Violet-Green Swallow (25 birds.)

At Laguna de Santa Rosa, at Guerneville Road 1/26/70

White-Throated Sparrow (adult), Red Crossbill.

At Lake Raphine 1/30/70

Male Common Merganser, White-Throated Swifts (24+ birds
at Los Alamos Road.)

P.R.S.