

KITE TALES

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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WHAT THE FARALLONES ARE ALL ABOUT

John Smail, executive director of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, will be the first speaker of our current season. He will relate to us some of the natural and human history of these intriguing offshore islands.

The program will begin at 8 P.M. in Room 221 of the Darwin Hall of Science at Sonoma State College. A short business session and a refreshment period will follow.

OCTOBER OUTINGS

Those who got their reservations in soon enough will embark from Rodepa Harbor on October 17 aboard the FINBACK for some offshore observations. We are sorry that there isn't a larger party boat available there to accommodate all those who would have liked to be along.

On Saturday, October 30, a trip starting from the town of Point Reyes on Highway 1 (We'll be on the main street. You can't miss us!), will hit the trail at 8:30 A.M. We plan to explore the offerings of the Olema Marsh, the west side of Tomales Bay and as much farther as the clock and enthusiasms will allow. This is a very fruitful birding region and should an outing well worth attending.

R.R.O.S. CHRISTMAS COUNT

With Christmas falling on Saturday there just aren't enough suitable days available for all the counts which are carried on in this vicinity. The Point Reyes Count will be held on the 18th. (Contact Jack Guggolz, 685 Mesa Way, Richmond, Cal. 94805. Telephone 415...234-4298) The Western Sonoma County Count will be held on the 19th. (Contact Baron McLean, 1002 Danbeck Ave. Santa Rosa, Cal. 95404. Telephone 707...545-0851). This makes it appear that our best possibility is on the 26th. Your compiler, Gordon Bolander would appreciate being notified as soon as possible if you will, or will not, be able to participate on that date. A change could be made, so please indicate if there's an alternate date (up to Jan. 1) when you could take part. His address is 1450 Timber Hill Road, Santa Rosa, Cal. 95401. Telephone 707...542-5216. We need a goodly group of birders to adequately cover our census area and to maintain the traditional high quality of our count.

Our sincere thanks go to the John Schallerts for their great hospitality in making their home available to us for the delightful dinner meeting which opened our 1971-72 season. The dear people even had the weather under full control so that comfortable outdoor patio dining, which seems quite fitting for an organization such as ours, could be enjoyed as summer events were recapitulated and choice observations exchanged. (A sample of these will be found elsewhere in this issue.)

SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP

We revisited Tubb's Island on September 11 which, for this year at least, seemed to be a bit early for its better birding. However, fifty-four species were observed there by the twenty members in attendance. That total does not include the Horned Grebe or the Common Scoter which were recorded. It was felt that they almost surely were individuals which remained from the oil-soaked birds that were cared for there after a recent oil spill in the bay.

Shortly after passing by the gate at the highway an eagle was seen in flight near the edge of the bay. It could not be determined which eagle it actually was but Golden seems most likely.

The mud flats to the west of the diked area provided the best birding with a good assemblage of water birds and waders present. Avocets were the most numerous, as usual, but Black-bellied Plover in nearly full breeding plumage were eye catchers and a few Long-billed Curlew scattered among the larger number of Marbled Godwits were welcome additions to the smaller fry which included Killdeer, Willet, Dunlin, Dowitcher, sandpipers, and Northern Phalaropes. A couple of distant Clapper Rail afforded us just brief and unsatisfactory glimpses as they dashed between clumps of marsh grasses.

Hopes of finding the White Ibis which was seen near San Rafael in the morning lured a half-dozen of the party to that spot but the bird could not be located. Sightings of a single Red Phalarope (The English name of Gray Phalarope certainly is more appropriate at this time of year!), six Elegant Terns, and three other species not found at Tubb's Island afforded some consolation, however. In the following list * indicates San Rafael only.

Western Grebe	Sparrow Hawk	*Elegant Tern
Pied-billed Grebe	Ring-necked Pheasant	Caspian Tern
*Double-crested Cormorant	Clapper Rail	Mourning Dove
Great Blue Heron	American Coot	Horned Lark
*Common Egret	Killdeer	Tree Swallow
Snowy Egret	Black-bellied Plover	Barn Swallow
*Black-cr. Night Heron	Long-billed Curlew	Cliff Swallow
Mallard	Willet	Common Crow
Gadwall	Greater Yellowlegs	Common Bushtit
Pintail	Dunlin	Long-billed Marsh Wren
Green-winged Teal	Short-billed Dowitcher	Yellowthroat
Cinnamon Teal	Western Sandpiper	Western Meadowlark
American Widgeon	Marbled Godwit	Red-winged Blackbird
Shoveler	American Avocet	Brewer Blackbird
Ruddy Duck	*Red Phalarope	House Finch
Turkey Vulture	Northern Phalarope	American Goldfinch
White-tailed Kite	Western Gull	Lesser Goldfinch
Red-tailed Hawk	California Gull	Savannah Sparrow
Golden ? Eagle	Ring-billed Gull	Song Sparrow
Marsh Hawk	Forster Tern	

SAMPLES OF SUPER SIGNIFINGS

Dr. Wayne Tiller went north..... You can follow his travels toward Alaska (and back) by the additions to his yearly list, as follows:

Whimbrel	Least Flycatcher	✓ Common Redpoll
Virginia Rail	Tennessee Warbler	Oldsquaw
Northern Phalarope	Northern Waterthrush	Long-tailed Jaeger
Black-billed Magpie	✓ Northwestern Crow	Gray-crowned Rosy Finch
Yellow-headed Blackbird	Sooty Shearwater	✓ Willow Ptarmigan
Wilson Phalarope	Parasitic Jaeger	Snow Bunting
Forster Tern	Black-legged Kittiwake	Bough-legged Hawk
Common Nighthawk	Sabine Gull	Golden Plover
Lewis Woodpecker	Arctic Tern	Boreal Chickadee
Townsend Solitaire	Common Murre	Blackpoll Warbler
Swainson Hawk	Pigeon Guillemot	✓ Spruce Grouse
Black Swift	Rhinoceros Auklet	✓ Northern Three-toed Woodpecker
Vaux Swift	Lincoln Sparrow	✓ Common Eider
Traill Flycatcher	Cassin Auklet	King Eider
Bank Swallow	Marbled Murrelet	✓ Horned Puffin
Red-eyed Vireo	Harlequin Duck	✓ Red-faced Cormorant
Mountain Bluebird	Pomarine Jaeger	Tufted Puffin
Clark Nutcracker	Tree Sparrow	Gray-checked Thrush
Gray Jay	Lesser Yellowlegs	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Boblink	Rusty Blackbird	Mourning Warbler
American Redstart	Red-necked Grebe	White-throated Sparrow
Red-naped Sapsucker	Trumpeter Swan	Ovenbird
Black Tern	Coshawk	Blue Grouse
Bald Eagle	Harlan Hawk	✓ White-tailed Ptarmigan
Yellow-shafted Flicker	Cuckoo(sp?)	Yellowthroat
Eastern Kingbird	Solitary Sandpiper	White-winged Crossbill
Slate-colored Junco	✓ Wheatear	Heermann Gull
Barrow Goldeneye	Bohemian Waxwing	Screech Owl
Pigeon Hawk	✓ Lapland Longspur	Pectoral Sandpiper
Ruffed Grouse	Fine Grosbeak	✓ White Ibis

Baron McLean went south.....went east.....and west.....and ?

May 19 Bolinas. White Ibis
 May 22 Lake Pillsbury-Hull Mtn. White-headed Woodpecker, Mountain Chickadee, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Green-tailed Towhee, and Sage Sparrow
 June 4 Gralapp home. Tennessee Warbler
 June 13 Santa Cruz, offshore. 12 Black-footed Albatross at one time. At the Santa Cruz lighthouse Black Swift on nest. Many Bank Swallows at mouths of Santa Cruz and Pajaro Rivers
 June 14 Santiago Canyon, Orange County. Blue Grosbeak. At the Tucker Bird Sanctuary in Modjeska Canyon. Hooded Oriole
 June 16 Mt. Pinos. Mountain Bluebird, Red Crossbill. NO Condors.
 June 17 Near Skagg's Island. Skua pursuing a Ring-billed Gull/
 July 23-25 Echo Summit. Black-backed 3-toed Woodpecker, Williamson Sapsucker, Dusky, Hammond, and Gray Flycatchers, Dipper, Brewer Sparrow, and Black-billed Magpie
 July 31 Pigeon Point. Marbled Murrelet, Harlequin Duck and a White-winged Dove near Pescadero.
 Aug. 24 Near town of Bodega. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper.
 Sept. 6 Same place. Golden Plover
 Sept. 9 Angwin. Pectoral Sandpiper

