

KITE TALES

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
VOL. 6-Nº 6 SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA FEBRUARY 1972

FEBRUARY MEETING.....

The regular meeting of the RROS will be held on Thursday, February 10, in Room 221 of the Charles Darwin Hall of Science, Sonoma State College, Rohnert Park. Program starts at 8:00 P.M.

The speaker for the evening will be Ronald M. Jurek, of the California Department of Fish and Game, who will tell us of the research being conducted by his department on the shorebirds of California.

Bring a guest along! Please use the courtesy parking permit printed on the last sheet.

FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP.....

The field trip will be held on Saturday, February 26. It will be a return trip to the rewarding Thornton area in the Sacramento Valley. Our two previous trips there at this time of year netted a total of 94 species. 14 others were recorded between Fairfield and Rio Vista. Come with a friend and enjoy a bit of the interior habitat which is so different from our local association. Swans, geese, and cranes are expected.

The group will start its "primary" tour at 9 AM from the east side of the river just across the bridge on Highway 12 from Rio Vista. Those who enjoy an earlier start might join us on Highway 12 at the east edge of Fairfield at 7:30 AM.

OFFSHORE TRIP RESERVATIONS.....

Keep in mind the April offshore trip out of Bodega. Reservations, at \$11 per head, will be accepted at the February meeting. This annual spring cruise affords an opportunity to view at close range several species rarely identified from shore. The fifteen available spaces go on a first come first-served basis. Don't be disappointed! Mail or phone reservations accepted by Dr. E.D. (Mike) Parmeter, 2005 Waverly St., Napa, 95404
Phone 255-6757

CHRISTMAS COUNT ADDENDA.....

By an oversight, the Red-breasted Nuthatches reported by Marianne Shepard and Jack Guppolz were left out of the Christmas Count list in our last issue. Here, too, are the seven count-period species not recorded on the day of the count: Double-crested Cormorant, Canada Goose, Redhead, Rufflehead, Common Gallinule, Burrowing Owl, and Saw-whet (owl).

JANUARY FIELD TRIP.....

The January field trip, held on the 15th, met with the cold weather which has been so prevalent this very dry winter. The heavy ground fog, lying just inside the coastal ranges, resulted in a brisk off-shore wind throughout the morning. This is nearly a complete reversal of the usual state of affairs.

Fourteen members were on hand at the starting point where a Turkey Vulture with a startling ruff of white neck feathers evoked various surmises before his true identity was established. Loons, grebes, and sundry of the diving ducks were present in the river. There were also numerous gulls but the often-present Kittiwake was unfortunately absent. For once, the Common Scoter was the most common among the "sea coots" feeding near the shore line. A single Brown Pelican there proved to be the only one recorded on the trip. All the Heermann Gulls have already left our frigid (to them) area for the balmy climes of the south. Gray whales, heading toward the same goal, were noted offshore as were a dozen or so Marbled Murrelets and a few Common Murres. Our Party arrived at Bodega Head too late to observe the Rock Sandpipers seen there earlier in the day but Surf-bird, Black Turnstone, Wandering Tattler, Whimbrel, Willet, and Black Oyster-catcher were still on the rocks. The fifth grebe, Red-necked, completed our full-house of the local possibilities at this point.

An enjoyable stroll up the canyon behind Duncan Mills was highlighted by the close-up sightings of a Pileated Woodpecker and a pair of Wood Ducks.

Russian River... Jenner to Duncan Mills

Common Loon	Sparrow Hawk	Wrentit
Red-throated Loon	California Quail	Winter Wren
Horned Grebe	American Coot	Bewick Wren
Eared Grebe	Killdeer	Long-billed Marsh Wren
Western Grebe	Common Snipe	American Robin
Pied-billed Grebe	Spotted Sandpiper	Hermit Thrush
Double-crested Cormorant	Truncate-winged Gull	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Pelagic Cormorant	Western Gull	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Great Blue Heron	Herring Gull	Starling
Mallard	California Gull	Hutton Vireo
Pintail	Ring-billed Gull	Audubon Warbler
Wood Duck	Mew Gull	House Sparrow
Canvasback	Belted Kingfisher	Red-winged Blackbird
Lesser Scaup	Red-shafted Flicker	Brewer Blackbird
Common Goldeneye	Pileated Woodpecker	Purple Finch
Bufflehead	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	House Finch
White-winged Scoter	Downy Woodpecker	Pine Siskin
Surf Scoter	Black Phoebe	Brown Towhee
Common Scoter	Say Phoebe	Oregon Junco
Ruddy Duck	Steller Jay	White-crowned Sparrow
Common Merganser	Scrub Jay	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Common Raven	Fox Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Common Bushtit	Song Sparrow
Added in the Bodega area...		
Red-necked Grebe	Black Turnstone	Nuttall Woodpecker
Brandt Cormorant	Whimbrel	Common Crow
Snowy Egret	Wandering Tattler	Western Bluebird
Gadwall	Black-bellied Plover	Water Pipit
Green-winged Teal	Surfbird	Northern Shrike
Shoveler	Willet	Loggerhead Shrike
Redhead	Least Sandpiper	Western Meadowlark
Greater Scaup	Dunlin	American Avocet
Cooper Hawk	Western Sandpiper	Common Murre

Marsh Hawk
Black Oyster-catcher

Marbled Godwit
Mourning Dove

Marbled Murrelet
Sanderling

FROM THE FIELD.....

On the way home from the field trip Bolander, Best, and Pozzi observed a herd of 34 deer in one field on a sunny ridge. Of the eight antlered individuals in the group, three would have to be classified as "really nice" bucks!

Mike Parmeter reports a European Widgeon in Pope Valley on January 21 and several Barrow Goldeneye and a pair of Hooded Merganser on Lake Merritt in Oakland on January 22.

A Northern Shrike was present at Spring Creek Lake on January 20. Seen by Buddy Robert.

Parmeter, McGrew, and Bolander had views of the Harris Sparrow near Schooner Bay (Limantour Lagoon) and the Swamp Sparrow at the Olema marsh which had been reported from those sites by others. On the same date, January 29, there was a female Pileated Woodpecker among the willow and alder growth in the Olema marsh.

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Black-footed Albatross	2	1	2	2																			
Fulmar																							
Pink-footed Shearwater		3	com	fc	200	2					10			15		com		50	1	5			
New Zealand Shearwater			250+		250+							1		6				6		200+			
Sooty Shearwater	com	com	abund	100+	150	abund	200+	100+	75					15				3		50	4	abund	
Pale-footed Shearwater																							
Fork-tailed Petrel																							
Ashy Petrel			2								3			1				2					
Red Phalarope					com					com	1			com				2					
Northern Phalarope	com	com			com					com	6	com		com				com		*	com	*	com
Pomarine Jaeger			fc		com					com	4			*	com			1		3	3	3	2
Parasitic Jaeger			2											*						1	1	1	
Skua			1																				
Black-legged Kittiwake								1													3	12	3
Sabine Gull			6								6	2							1				
Arctic Tern																							
Common Murre	*	fc	*	*	com						*	*	com	*	*	com	*	com	com	200	200	*	
Pigeon Guillemot	*	*	*	*	com						*	*	com	*	*	com	*	com	com	2	4	*	
Harlequin Murrelet														*	*					5	9	4	
Ancient Murrelet		2												*	*								
Cassin's Auklet	fc	3		*							3	2						fc	6				
Rhinoceros Auklet	10	7	6	7							9	1		*	*			fc	12	500+			
Mufted Puffin												1										1	

abund = thousands
 com = 10 - 100
 fc = 5 - 10
 * = present, numbers not recorded
 Incomplete records for 4-21-68 & 3-21-69
 All trips from Bodega Bay, staying offshore from Sonoma County, usually 5 - 15 miles.

A CONTRIBUTION TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF OFFSHORE BIRDING IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

BENJAMIN D. PARMEYER