

# KITE TALES

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
VOL. 7~N<sup>o</sup>6 SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA FEBRUARY 1973

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## WINTER COMES BY WAY OF SOUTH AMERICA \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

The regular meeting of the RROS will be held on Thursday, February 8, in Room 221 of the Charles Darwin Hall of Science, California State College-Sonoma in Rohnert Park. Program starts at 8 PM.

We are fortunate to have as our speaker of the evening, Jon Winter, who will speak on THE OCEANIC BIRDS OF SOUTH AMERICA. Illustrations will be in the media of his own excellent slides which cover a wider range than just the birds in the area. Do bring your friends to enjoy this fine entertainment.

## FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP.....

Our trip, set for Saturday, the 17th, will be our traditional February visit to the Thornton area. This bit of central valley habitat always has much of interest that we "coastal dwellers" don't usually encounter in our own areas. Swans, geese, and cranes are expected in good supply. Last year a Bald Eagle and early Cliff Swallows were welcome surprises. A less welcome one was the low state of the surface waters. There should be a more copious supply this year and the birds will probably be less concentrated. We expect to list between 85 and 90 species, using the numbers found during the past three trips as indicators; 89, 88, and 86.

As before, the "early birds" will start from the east edge of Fairfield at 7:30 AM and the entire party will leave from the east side of the river across the bridge from Rio Vista on Highway 12 at 9 AM.

## ARNOLD ADDS ANOTHER.....

Dr. "Jack" Arnold reports the sighting of a male Barrow Goldeneye at Bodega Harbor on January 27. This constitutes the first recording of the species within the confines of Sonoma County. In addition, he also reports that there was a beautiful male Harlequin Duck at the same spot. It is a species not usually recorded in such a sheltered situation.

## CHRISTMAS COUNT LIST.....

This is included for all (I hope) who have not already received a copy. Our total is reported as 125 species but three seem to have been overlooked in the tabulation. I believe, and this needs verification, that those missing are: Black-crowned Night Heron, Downy Woodpecker, and Hairy Woodpecker.

LIST OF SPECIES NOTED ON JANUARY TRIP, JENNER TO BODEGA LAGOON

- |                           |                        |                           |
|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Common Loon               | American Coot          | Steller Jay               |
| Arctic Loon               | Black Oystercatcher    | Scrub Jay                 |
| Red-throated Loon         | ✓ Semipalmated Plover  | Common Raven              |
| ✓ Red-necked Grebe        | Killdeer               | Chestnut-backed Chickadee |
| Horned Grebe              | ✓ Black-bellied Plover | Wrentit                   |
| Eared Grebe               | Surfbird               | Bewick Wren               |
| Western Grebe             | ✓ Ruddy Turnstone      | Long-billed Marsh Wren    |
| Pied-billed Grebe         | Black Turnstone        | American Robin            |
| Double-crested Cormorant  | Common Snipe           | Varied Thrush             |
| Brandt Cormorant          | ✓ Whimbrel             | Hermit Thrush             |
| Pelagic Cormorant         | ✓ Spotted Sandpiper    | Western Bluebird          |
| Great Blue Heron          | ✓ Wandering Tattler    | Ruby-crowned Kinglet      |
| Snowy Egret               | Willet                 | Loggerhead Shrike         |
| Black-crowned Night Heron | ✓ Rock Sandpiper       | Starling                  |
| Whistling Swan            | ✓ Least Sandpiper      | Myrtle Warbler            |
| Black Brant               | Dunlin                 | Audubon Warbler           |
| Pintail                   | Short-billed Dowitcher | ✓ Yellowthroat            |
| Shoveler                  | Western Sandpiper      | House Sparrow             |
| Canvasback                | Marbled Godwit         | Western Meadowlark        |
| ✓ Greater Scaup           | Sanderling             | Red-winged Blackbird      |
| Lesser Scaup              | Glaucous-winged Gull   | Brewer Blackbird          |
| Common Goldeneye          | Western Gull           | Evening Grosbeak          |
| Bufflehead                | Herring Gull           | Purple Finch              |
| White-winged Scoter       | California Gull        | House Finch               |
| Surf Scoter               | Ring-billed Gull       | ✓ Pine Siskin             |
| Common Scoter             | Mew Gull               | American Goldfinch        |
| Ruddy Duck                | Heermann Gull          | Rufous-sided Towhee       |
| Red-breasted Merganser    | ✓ Forster Tern         | Brown Towhee              |
| Turkey Vulture            | ✓ Common Murre         | Savannah Sparrow          |
| ✓ Ferruginous Hawk        | Burrowing Owl          | Oregon Junco              |
| Marsh Hawk                | Anna Hummingbird       | White-crowned Sparrow     |
| Sparrow Hawk              | Belted Kingfisher      | Golden-crowned Sparrow    |
| California Quail          | Red-shafted Flicker    | Fox Sparrow               |
| ✓ Virginia Rail           | Downy Woodpecker       | Song Sparrow              |
| Red-tailed Hawk           | Black Phoebe           | 104 species               |

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A CHANCE TO SHARPEN YOUR FIELD WORK.....

A non-credit course covering the field identification, distribution, behavior, and ecology of the birds of California will be offered on Monday evenings (beginning March 5) at California State College-Sonoma. The course is designed to introduce the broad aspects of field ornithology to persons with little or no biological background. Several Sunday field trips will be scheduled, supplemented by lecture material using slides, specimens, and other visual aids. The cost will be \$25.00 per person. For further details contact the Extension Division of the college. Phone (707) 795-2394.  
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REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, established 1962

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