

# Kite Tales

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DECEMBER

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
Volume 21, Number 4      Sonoma County

1986

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

### December 11, Thursday, 7:30 PM - General Meeting

"Bring Your Own Slides Night" is one of RROS' most popular meetings of the year! And why not, with all you skilled photographers clicking away out there. So please sift through your year's bird and scenic shots and select 10 slides to share with the rest of us. If you've enjoyed them, we will too!

### December 21, Sunday - SANTA ROSA CHRISTMAS COUNT

This is the 27th for Santa Rosa and RROS. Last year we set a new record for total species for the third consecutive year. We had 152. We hope to top that figure again this year. We will be covering Greater Santa Rosa, rain or shine.

Doug Ellis will be the Coordinator. If you would like to participate and don't already have a team organized, please phone him at work, 539-3443; or drop him a note at PO Box 155, Eldridge 95431. A donation of \$3 is requested by National Audubon from each participant to help pay the cost of compiling and publishing the results. You may sign up at the December 11th General Meeting.

The Compilation and Potluck Supper will again be at the Wikiup Greens Clubhouse, thanks to Bob and Bertha Rains. Please bring something to share - soup, chili, sandwich fixings, dessert - whatever. You need NOT bring utensils - everything is there. Arrival time should be anytime after 5 PM. Final compilation will start around 6:30 PM.

To get there, take Hwy 101 north of Santa Rosa, exit on River Road (about 2 miles north of Coddington); head east to first stop sign (Old Redwood Hwy), turn north on Old Redwood Hwy about 1 mile, crossing bridge; take first right after bridge onto Wikiup Drive; proceed east about 1/2 mile; take right turn onto Las Casitas & then immediate left. Parking is on the left and up the street.

Doug says that area leaders for the Count will remain about the same, but there are a couple of openings for anyone who wants to lead a new area. And if you can't do the Count, plan to come to the Potluck Supper anyway. Hope to see everyone there!

### December 28, Sunday - Western Sonoma County Christmas Count

Betty Burrige and Deyea Harper will be Coordinators of Madrone Audubon's Christmas Count. They will be looking for participants, and you can sign up with them at the RROS meeting in December, also. Or drop Betty a line at 963 Crest Drive, Santa Rosa 95404; or phone her at 527-0225.

CHRISTMAS COUNTS - 1986

- December 20, Saturday - Point Reyes (PRBO)  
December 21, Sunday - Santa Rosa (RROS); Doug Ellis, Coordinator, 539-3443 (work)  
- Santa Clara Audubon  
December 27, Saturday - Redbud Audubon (Lake County): Jim Matzinger, 928-5376  
or Jerry White, 279-4125  
- Marin County Audubon  
- Mt. Diablo Audubon  
December 28, Sunday - Western Sonoma County (Madrone Audubon): Betty Burrige,  
Coordinator, 527-0225 (evening)  
- Ohlone Audubon  
January 1, Thursday - Angwin: Phil Burton - 963-5744 (nights)  
- 963-7914 (days)  
January 3, Saturday - Mendocino Coast (Pt. Arena area): Linda Riley, 882-2497  
- Sequoia Audubon

The Christmas Counts underlined are connected with RROS by memberships or other close ties. Their Coordinators would appreciate participation by RROS members.

OBSERVATIONS

Dick Ashford 996-7508  
731 Austin St, Sonoma 95476

Sonoma Coast

- 10/28 - Bodega Harbor: Red-necked Grebe, Red-throated Loons (2) (JA)  
11/1 - Bodega Harbor: Eurasian Wigeon (male) (JW)  
11/8-9 - Bodega Bay feeder: White-throated Sparrow (NC)  
11/11 - Bodega Harbor: Eurasian Wigeon (male), Red-throated Loons (2) (DA)  
Sewer ponds: Ring-necked Ducks (6) (DA)

Marin Coast, Point Reyes Area

- 11/15 - Bolinas Lagoon: Barrow's Goldeneye (male), Harlequin Duck (male) in same field of view (DA)  
Five Brooks: Ring-necked Ducks (14) (DA)  
11/23 - Whitehouse Pool parking lot: Swamp Sparrow; Pine Gulch Creek: Palm Warbler (BDP)

Other

- 11/15 - Willow Creek Road: Spotted Owl (BDP)  
11/19 - Hwy 37, Skaggs Island area: Short-eared Owl (DA)  
11/20 - Napa: Evening Grosbeaks BDP)

Observers: Dr. John R. Arnold, Dick Ashford, Nancy Conzett, Benjamin D. Par-meter, Jerry White

FIELD TRIP REPORT

A Spotted Owl was the star of the show at Doug Ellis' November 16th field trip to Willow Creek Road. Five other hardy types met Doug in Occidental for the early morning owling and were well rewarded. After 45 minutes stumbling along Willow Creek Road's rutted surface in the dark, with Spotted Owls responding to Doug's calls from a distance, the six birders suddenly heard the barking call about 30 feet away. There it was, glaring at us in Doug's flashlight beam, in the low branches of a fir! The owl flew around the tree a bit while everyone got a good look at it...a Life Bird for several in the group.

As dawn broke, several of the Pygmy-Owls that had been answering Doug's calls appeared. During the day, the group saw 5 and heard 6. A pair of Pileated Woodpeckers were working away atop a snag during these early morning hours and allowed a fine view of them.

Other highlights included both Bald and Golden Eagles feeding on a sheep carcass. They provided a good lesson in identification of immatures. We also had a good look at a Cooper's Hawk, using the field mark advice given us by Dr. Stephen F. Bailey during the October program.

The trip ended abruptly on a sour note when lunch was interrupted by shooting nearby. Ducks suddenly arising from the thick trees along Willow Creek suggested the reason.

The 56 species seen for the day were as follows: Great Blue Heron, Wood Duck, Mallard, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, American Kestrel, Sora, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, Band-tailed Pigeon, Western Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Spotted Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Acorn Woodpecker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Steller's Jay, Scrub Jay, Common Raven, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Brown Creeper, Bewick's Wren, Winter Wren, Marsh Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Western Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Varied Thrush, Wrentit, European Starling, Hut-ton's Vireo, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Rufous-sided Towhee, Brown Towhee, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Brewer's Blackbird, Pine Siskin.

The 13 birders who joined Doug Ellis were Carol Brant, Betty Burrridge, Robert and Barbara Hagstrom, Deyea Harper, Louise Johnston, John Klobas, Carol Mac-Millan, Bob and Bertha Rains, Ruth Rudesill, Jean Smith, and Clarence Wolcott.



REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY was organized in 1962, to encourage the study and conservation of birds, other wildlife and their habitat. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, September through May, at 7:30 PM, in Room 221 of Darwin Hall, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA 94928.

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OFFICERS

President - Janet Bosshard, 434 Hendley St, Santa Rosa 95404	526-5883
Vice-President - Kurt Campbell, PO Box 268, Cotati 94928	664-0104
Secretary - Ruth Rudesill, PO Box 371, Kenwood 95452	833-6026
Treasurer - Wini Nelson, 400 Sunnyslope Ave, Petaluma 94952	762-6152
Field Trips - Bob Rains, 450-A Las Casitas, Santa Rosa 95401	528-6785
Observations - Dick Ashford, Jr, 731 Austin St, Sonoma 95476	996-7508
Social - Shirley Myers, 4815 Valley Quail Lane, Santa Rosa 95401	823-9512
Christmas Count - Doug Ellis, PO Box 155, Eldridge 95431 (work)	539-3443
KITE TALES - Jean Smith, 519 Sunnyvale Dr, Healdsburg 95448	433-2542

RROS dues are \$7 for Family, \$5.50 for Individual, \$3 for Student. Memberships cover the period from September 1986 to June 1987 and include a subscription to KITE TALES. Checks should be made out to RROS and sent to Treasurer Wini Nelson, 400 Sunnyslope Avenue, Petaluma, CA 94952.

Jean C. Smith  
519 Sunnyvale Drive  
Healdsburg, CA 95448



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