

# Kite Tales

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DECEMBER

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
Volume 22, No. 4

Sonoma County

1987

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

### December 10, Thursday, 7:30 PM - General Meeting

"Bring Your Own Slides Night" has become a popular tradition for RR0S' December meeting...a time to show off your best shots! Please sort through your camera work for this past year and bring about 10 slides to share with the rest of us. We will enjoy them together. If you have more slides you would like to show, and we have time, we will see them.

### December 20, Sunday - SANTA ROSA CHRISTMAS COUNT

Coming up is RR0S' 28th Santa Rosa Christmas Count. We will be covering Greater Santa Rosa, rain or shine. We hope to better - by far! - last year's count of 136 species, the lowest Santa Rosa had produced in many years. In 1985 we had set a record of 152 species, the third consecutive year for breaking a previous record. So we wondered what happened in 1986.

Studies by Point Reyes Bird Observatory biologists indicated that land birds in their Palomarin area experienced massive reproductive failure following the Chernobyl nuclear power plant catastrophe in Russia in spring 1986. PRBO statistics showed that the nestling failure, which occurred over much of Northern California, coincided with local rain showers on May 6, 1986, when a cloud of radioactive particles from the accident was passing over coastal Washington, Oregon and Northern California. (See PRBO Newsletter 77, Summer 1987.)

Since PRBO has found that landbird productivity in 1987 is back to normal, we can anticipate that RR0S Christmas Count will be back to normal...that is, better than ever!

Doug Ellis will be the Coordinator. If you would like to participate and are not already assigned to a team, please phone him at work, 585-0226; or drop him a note at PO Box 155, Eldridge 95431. National Audubon this year is requesting scaled donations: \$4 for the first Christmas Count of your year, \$3.50 for the second, and \$3 for the third count you participate in, and thereafter. This will help pay the cost of compiling and publishing count results.

The Compilation and Potluck Supper will again be at the Wikiup Greens Clubhouse, courtesy of Bob and Bertha Rains. Please bring something to share - soup, chili, sandwich fixings, dessert or salad. 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/Mark West Springs Road (about 2 miles north of Coddington); head east to first stop sign (Old Redwood Hwy), turn north on Old Redwood Hwy about one mile, crossing bridge; take first right after bridge onto Wikiup Drive; proceed east about 1/2 mile; take right turn onto Las Casitas and then immediate left. Parking is on the left and up the street. Hope to see everyone there!

CHRISTMAS COUNTS - 1987-88

- December 20, Sunday - Santa Rosa (RROS); Doug Ellis, 585-0226 (work)  
December 27, Sunday - Mendocino Coast; Dorothy Tobkin, 964-6216 (weekends  
and eves before 9:30); or Joe Reding, 964-6333 (work)  
January 1, Friday - Angwin; Phil Burton, 963-5744 (nights); 963-7914 (days)  
January 2, Saturday - Lake County (Redbud Audubon); Jerry White, 279-4125  
January 3, Sunday - Western Sonoma County (Madrone Audubon); Betty Burrige,  
527-0225 (evenings); or Deyea Harper, 542-1542

NOTE: Dorothy Tobkin (member of RROS) will be leading a birding trip in the Mendocino Coast CBC area on December 13. The group will meet at 9 AM, corner of Hwy 1 and Stoneboro Road, just south of Manchester. The Christmas Count area is in the vicinity of Point Arena. RROS members are invited on the bird walk and on the Christmas Count.

OBSERVATIONS

Dick Ashford, 996-7508; 731 Austin St, Sonoma 95476

Marin County/Point Reyes Area

- 10/29 - Point Reyes, RCA Fields: Prairie Falcon; Nunes Ranch: Black-and-white Warbler; Lighthouse: Black Scoters (DA)  
11/17 - Pine Gulch Creek: 3 Sharp-tailed Sparrows, Palm Warbler, Red Crossbills, Rose-breasted Grosbeak (DA, BS); Five Brooks: Hooded Merganser (male) (DA)  
11/14 - Spaletta Plateau: 7 Lesser Golden Plovers, Burrowing Owl; Fish Docks: Clark's Grebes, Black Scoters (RR)  
11/15 - Limantour: Eurasian Wigeon, Wood Duck, Common Moorhen (DA, BS); Nicasio: Rough-legged Hawk (light morph) (DA)

North Coast (all observations: DT)

- 10/26 - Ukiah Sewage Ponds: 3 Wood Ducks, 2 Pectoral Sandpipers; Robinson Creek Road: Dipper, Pileated Woodpecker  
10/31 - MacKerricher State Park: Red-necked Grebe, Lesser Golden Plover, 25 Snowy Plovers; 11/1 - Lesser Yellowlegs, Black Scoter (female)  
11/7 - Hwy 1/Fein Creek Rd: Palm Warbler  
11/8 - Manchester State Beach: Lesser Golden Plover, Oldsquaw (female), White Pelicans, Tundra Swans, Green Heron  
11/15 - Ten-mile River: Red-necked Grebe

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- 10/24 - Bodega Bay: Eurasian Wigeon, Palm Warbler (RR, KC)

Observers: Dick Ashford, Kurt Campbell, Ruth Rudesill, Bob Stewart, Dorothy Tobkin

FIELD TRIP RESULTS

Three early risers joined Doug Ellis for the Willow Creek owling expedition on November 14: Betty Burrige, Roger Marlowe and Sherryl Royce. Setting forth from Occidental at 4:30 in the morning, they stumbled as silently as possible down the rutted mountain road, while Doug spoke to the owls. They heard responses from Spotted, Saw-whet, Screech-owl, Great Horned and Northern Pygmy-owl. The birds did not appear.

At eight o'clock, the group was joined by Dr. Jack Arnold, Frances Kohn, June Persson, Bob and Bertha Rains and another friend of the Rains. Around 43 birds were seen during the sunny, cool day, including Band-tailed Pigeons and Varied Thrush.



REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY was organized in 1962, to encourage the study 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 Rm 221 of Darwin Hall, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, Ca 94928.

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OFFICERS

President-	Ruth Rudesill,	PO Box 371 Kenwood 95452	833-6026
Vice-president-	Mark Delwiche	970 Maytum Sebastopol 95472	823-5630
Secretary -	Olive Corey	422 Ridgeway Santa Rosa 95401	542-8429
Treasurer -	Wini Nelson	400 Sunnyslope Av Petaluma 94952	762-6152
Field Trips -	Bob Rains	450-A Las Casitas Santa Rosa 95401	528-6785
Observations -	Dick Ashford, Jr	731 Austin Sonoma 95476	996-7508
Social -	June Persson	4757 Snyder Ln #69 Rohnert Park 94928	585-3615
Christmas Count -	Doug Ellis	PO Box 155 Eldridge 95431	(wk) 585-0226
KITE TALES -	Jean Smith	519 Sunnyvale Healdsburg 95448	433-2542

RROS dues are \$7 for Family, \$5.50 for Individual, \$3 for Student. Memberships cover the period from September 1987 to June 1988 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 Dr  
Healdsburg, CA 95448

