

Kite Tales

DECEMBER

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Volume 23, No. 4

Sonoma County

1988

COMING ATTRACTIONS

December 8, Thursday - 7:30 p.m. - General Meeting

The program for the evening will be the "Quiz Game" with Dr. John Arnold, Master of Ceremonies. Dr. John has promised surprises, and, we suspect, a few challenges, too. Binoculars may be helpful for identifying and counting birds on slides.

December 18, Sunday - Santa Rosa Christmas Bird Count

Doug Ellis, Compiler, asks that those volunteering for the count write or phone him (585-0226, evenings). There will be a sign-up sheet at the December meeting. The fee for participants is \$4; there is no sliding scale for those who volunteer for 2 or more counts this year.

Countdown Potluck

Dinner: 5:00 p.m. The Clubhouse will be open by 4:30 p.m.,
Countdown: 6:30 p.m. so join us any time after that. Bring
Place: Wikiup Greens only your food - dishes, table ware and
Clubhouse coffee are provided. Directions: Exit
Hwy 101 at Mark West Springs Rd., right
to signal at Old Redwood Hwy., north on Old Red about 1 mile to
Wikiup Drive (just after the bridge over Mark West Creek), right on
Wikiup about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, right on Las Casitas for 1 very short block,
left and use parking areas on left side of street. The Clubhouse
is on the right side of the street.

January 2, 1989, Monday - Western Sonoma Christmas Bird Count

Compilers: Betty Burrridge, phone 527-0225; Deyea Harper, 542-1542.

January 7, Saturday - Field Trip to Bolinas Lagoon

Dick Ashford, leader, will scout the area when he volunteers for the Southern Marin Christmas Count the week before with Bob Stewart. He plans to locate the target bird for the day, the Sharp-tailed Sparrow, and any other rare or uncommon species.

Meeting Time: 8:30 a.m. Allow $1\frac{1}{4}$ hours travel time from
Place: Turnout opposite Santa Rosa. From Hwy 101, take the
Audubon Canyon Ranch Washington St. exit in Petaluma, pro-
ceed west. Turn left at the library
or at the signal for Lakewille Hwy., go 1 long block to D St., right
on D and continue west through town. (continued on page 2)

January Field Trip - continued

The road will take you to Pt. Reyes Station, where it meets Hwy 1. There you turn left and head south until you reach Audubon Canyon Ranch on the east side of Bolinas Lagoon.

Waterproof boots are needed when combing the Bolinas marsh for the Sharp-tailed Sparrow and such. Bring along lunch and expect a good birding day.

FIELD TRIP REPORT - November 12, Fort Bragg and Mendocino Coast

Dorothy Tobkin led a group of 8 on this trip to some new - to RROS members - birding spots. While there was rain at 7:30 a.m., when we started at 8:00 a.m., the sky was overcast but dry the rest of the day. Within the first half hour, we saw a Peregrine Falcon and a Merlin. The day continued with flights of scoters heading south, 41 Black Oystercatchers and a large flock of Surf-birds at McKerricher's Seal Point, 25 Snowy Plovers on the beach, and 2 lesser Golden Plovers in a field. Landbirds were more often heard than seen. We saw many Harbor Seals in the ocean, and a River Otter on Lake Cleone. At late afternoon, 4 persistent birders saw a Northern Pygmy Owl at Van Damme State Park.

The 86 species seen were: Red-throated Loon, Pacific Loon, Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Western Grebe, Sooty Shearwater, Brown Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Brandt's Cormorant, Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, White-fronted Goose, Canada Goose, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Black Scoter, Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Bufflehead, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Osprey, Black-shouldered Kite, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Virginia Rail, American Coot, Black-bellied Plover, Lesser Golden Plover, Snowy Plover, Killdeer, Black Oystercatcher, Greater Yellowlegs, Willet, Whimbrel, Black Turnstone, Surf-bird, Sanderling, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitcher, Common Snipe, Red Phalarope, Bonaparte's Gull, Heermann's Gull, Mew Gull, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, Western Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Common Murre, Mourning Dove, Burrowing Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Northern Flicker, Black Phoebe, Scrub Jay, Common Raven, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Wren-tit, Water Pipit, European Starling, Hutton's Vireo, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, Purple Finch, House Finch.

OBSERVATIONS

Water and Shorebirds

Pacific Loon 11/5, 1,00s at Pt. Arena (DE). Black-footed Albatross, Short-tailed Shearwater, Buller's Shearwater, Northern Fulmar, Tufted Puffin, 10/30, Cordell Banks (BDP,JRA). White Pelican 11/4, 64 at Tomales Bay (B&BR). American Bittern 11/20, Walnut Grove (BDP). Sandhill Crane 11/20, Walnut Grove (BDP). Tundra Swan 11/20, Walnut Grove (DA,RR,BDP). Brant 11/10, 90 at McKerricher State Beach (DT) - 11/19, Abbot's Lagoon (BDP). White-fronted Goose 11/19, Abbott's Lagoon(BDP) - 11/5, Casper (DT). Eurasian Wigeon 11/2, Bodega Sewer Pond (DN). Redhead 11/19, 2 at Abbott's Lagoon (BDP). Black Scoter 11/2, Bodega Bay (DN) - 11/5, McKerricher SB (DT) - 11/5, Pt. Arena (DE). Oldsquaw 11/5, 7 at Pt. Arena (DE). Clapper Rail 11/19, Hudemann Slough (DA). Snowy Plover 11/19, Abbott's Lagoon (BDP). Lesser Golden Plover 10/30, 11/10, McKerricher SB (DT) - 11/2, Doran Pond (DN) - 11/20, Walnut Grove (DA,RR). Lesser Yellowlegs 11/20, Walnut Grove (BDP). Red Phalarope 11/10, 100s at McKerricher SB (DT). Ruff 10/29, Bodega Bay (JRA,BDP) - 11/2, Bodega Bay (DN). Marbled Murrelet 10/19, Duncan's Landing (DE) - 10/30, Bodega Head (RM).

Raptors

Golden Eagle 11/20, Walnut Grove (DA,RR). Sharp-shinned Hawk 11/19, 2 at Bodega Bay (DE). Cooper's Hawk 11/19, Bodega Bay (DE). Swainson's Hawk 11/20, Walnut Grove (DA,RR). Rough-legged Hawk 10/30, McKerricher SB (DT) - 11/2, 11/19,11/20, Bodega Bay (DN,DE,NC,mob) - Abbott's Lagoon (BDP) - Adobe Rd. (RR) - Limantour (RR). Ferruginous Hawk 11/1, Napa (BDP)- 11/2, Bodega Bay (DN) - Hudemann Slough (DA). Merlin 11/2, Pudding Creek (DT). Prairie Falcon 11/10, Walnut Grove (DA,RR). Peregrine Falcon 11/2, Bodega Head (DN) - 11/10, Fort Bragg (DT) - 11/19, Abbott's Lagoon (BDP). Burrowing Owl 10/22, 11/6, McKerricher SB (DT).

Other Non-passerines

Lesser Nighthawk 11/20, Lucchesi Park, Petaluma (DN). Hairy Woodpecker 11/11, Van Damme SP (DA). Pileated Woodpecker 11/10, Pudding Creek (DT).

Passerines

Tropical Kingbird 11/2, Pudding Creek (DT). Northern Wheatear 10/15, near Orland (BDP,SP). Bendire's Thrasher 11/20, Lodi (DA,RR). White-throated Sparrow 11/12, yard, Petaluma (WN) - 11/15, Willowside Rd. (BR).

Mammals

Humpback Whale, Blue Whale, Dall Porpoise 10,30, Cordell Banks (BDP).

Observers

John R. Arnold, Dick Ashford, Nancy Conzett, Doug Ellis, Roger Marlowe, Dan Nelson, Wini Nelson, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Sally Parmeter, Bertha Rains, Bob Rains, Ruth Rudesill, Dorothy Tobkin.

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 Room 221, Darwin Hall, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park CA 94928.

OFFICERS

President - Mark Delwiche, 970 Maytum, Sebastopol 95472 823-5630
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Christmas Count - Doug Ellis, PO Box 155, Eldridge 95431 585-0226
Kite Tales - Bertha Rains, 450A Las Casitas 95403 528-6785

MEMBERSHIP DUES RRROS dues are \$10 for Family, \$7.50 for individual, \$3 for Student. Memberships cover the period from September 1988 to June 1989 and include a subscription to Kite Tales. Checks should be made out to RRROS and sent to Sherryl Royce, Treasurer, at 2340 Silk Rd., Windsor, CA 95942.

Bertha Rains
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