

Kite Tales

JANUARY

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Volume 23, No. 5

1989

COMING ATTRACTIONS

January 7, Saturday - Field Trip to Bolinas Lagoon

This trip was announced in the December Kite Tales, as it will be before the January general meeting. The information is repeated for those who may have mislaid their Kite Tales during the holidays - and for many- the Christmas Bird Count rush. Dick Ashford, leader, will scout the area when he volunteers for the Southern Marin CBC 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. On this trip last year, a Black-legged Kittiwake flew close by while the group was eating lunch. No promises for a repeat performance, but you never know!

Meeting Time: 8:30 a.m. Allow 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ hours travel time
Meeting Place: Turnout opposite from Santa Rosa. From Hwy.
Audubon Canyon Ranch 101, take the Washington St.
exit in Petaluma, proceed west.

Turn left at the library or at the signal for Lakeville Hwy., go one long block to D St., right on D and continue west through town. 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 on Bolinas Lagoon.

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

January 12, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. - General Meeting

Dr. Peter Connors will present the evening's program entitled: "Golden Plovers in Alaska: Cryptic Species Revealed". He will show slides and offer evidence in favor of splitting the Lesser Golden Plover into 2 species. Dr. Connors has been a museum scientist at the Bodega Marine Biology Laboratory since 1971. He did field research on shorebirds in Alaska during 11 summers. In recent years he has focused on taxonomy and behavior of Golden Plovers.

Come and learn to identify both dominica and fulva subspecies so you may be prepared to add another bird to your list when and if the two are split.

January 21, Saturday - Field Trip to the Sacramento River Delta

Please see page 2 for details on the 2nd January field trip.

DEADLINE - February Kite Tales: January 23

January 21, Saturday - Field Trip to Sacramento River Delta

Once again, Dan Nelson will lead this popular trip to see Sandhill Cranes, Tundra Swans, Canada, White-fronted and Snow Geese, ducks, landbirds, and with a late afternoon stop at Grizzly Island, Short-eared Owls. Dan will be checking for any rarities in the area as well.

Meeting Time: 8:30 a.m.
Meeting Place: Don Quick Store
Parking Lot

The Don Quick Store is on the right side on Hwy. 12 as you come into Rio Vista. Allow about 1½ hours travel time from Santa Rosa. Bring warm clothing as it is frequently cold there, and a hearty lunch - you can't depend on restaurant stops on this trip.

FIELD TRIP REPORT

November 25, 1988 - Sacramento Valley and Sierra Foothills

This field trip was sponsored by the Davis Audubon Society. However, as RROS members were invited by Terry Colborn, and as some of our members did go, results of the trip are reported here. Thank you, Ruth Rudesill for providing the information.

Species seen were:

Pied-billed Grebe, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Green-backed Heron, Black-crowned Night-heron, Tundra Swan, Snow Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Northern Pintail, American Wigeon, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Common Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Black-shouldered Kite, Northern Harrier, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, American Kestrel, Prairie Falcon, California Quail, American Coot, Sandhill Crane, Black-bellied Plover, Killdeer, Mountain Plover, Black-necked Stilt, Greater Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper, Long-billed Curlew, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Long-billed Dowitcher, Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Barn Owl, Short-eared Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Lewis Woodpecker, Acorn Woodpecker, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark, Scrub Jay, Yellow-billed Magpie, American Crow, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-breasted Nuthatch, Rock Wren, Marsh Wren, Western Bluebird, American Robin, Varied Thrush, Northern Mockingbird, Bendire's Thrasher, Water Pipit, Phainopepla, Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling, Hutton's Vireo, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

In addition to the above 85 species, the group saw an unidentified sparrow, thought by some to be a Clay-colored Sparrow.

OBSERVATIONS

Water and Shorebirds

Pacific Loon 12/18, Lake Ralphine (RR). Horned Grebe 11/19, 40 at Bodega Bay (JRA). Laysan Albatross, Black-footed Albatross, Short-tailed Albatross 12/4, pelagic from Bodega Bay (DN). Cattle Egret 12/18, Laguna de SR (BDP). Green-backed Heron 12/17, Abbot's Lagoon (BDP). American Bittern 12/17, Abbot's Lagoon (BDP). Tundra Swan 12/17, 2 over Kenwood (DE). Canada Goose, 30 near Kenwood (DW). White-fronted, Ross, and Snow Geese, Brant 12/17, Abbot's Lagoon (BDP). Snow Goose 12/18, Sewer Pond W. of Willowside Rd. (BDP) - 11/24, 14 blue phase over Wikiup (B&BR). White-fronted Goose, Kenwood (RR). Green-winged Teal 11/24, Bodega Bay. Eurasian Wigeon 11/28, Bodega Bay (NC) - 12/10, Bolinas Lagoon (BDP). Redhead 11/27, Hole in the Head (NC). Ring-necked Duck 12/10, Spring Lake (TB) - 12/5, Bodega Bay sewage pond (NC). Barrow's Goldeneye 12/10, Bolinas Lagoon (BDP). Oldsquaw 11/27, Bodega Bay (NC) - 12/5, Russian River at Willow Creek (DE). Harlequin Duck 12/10, Bolinas Lagoon (BDP). Black Scoter 12/4, Bodega Bay (NC). Common Merganser 12/10, Lake Ralphine (TB) - 12/18, Willowside Rd. (BDP). Red-breasted Merganser 12/5, Russian River at Willow Creek (DE). Hooded Merganser 12/10, Lake Ralphine (TB) - 12/10, Five Brooks (BDP) - 12/18, Laguna de SR (BDP) - Fountain Grove (DN). Virginia Rail 12/18, E of Willowside Rd. (BDP). Clapper Rail 11/27, Cutting's Wharf (RR). Common Moorhen 12/17, Abbot's Lagoon (BDP). Mountain Plover 11/25, El Dorado Co. (RR). Lesser Golden Plover 12/11, Spaletta Plateau (BDP) - Cader Lane (RLB). Greater Yellowlegs, Cader Lane (MD). Lesser Yellowlegs, Cader Lane (MD). Mew Gull 12/10, Howarth Park (TB). Black-legged Kittiwake 12/17, Abbot's Lagoon (BDP). Pigeon Guillemot 12/5, Bodega Bay (NC).

Raptors

Golden Eagle 12/5, Russian River - 12/5, 12/18, Olivet & River Rd. (BDP) - 12/19, Vallejo (RR) - abundant, Cedarville (LR). Rough-legged Hawk November, December, numerous at Bodega Bay (NC, JRA, mob) - Boy's Ranch Rd. - 12/8, Stage Gulch Rd. (RR). Ferruginous Hawk, Boy's Ranch Rd. (RR) - Petaluma (DN) - 12/21, Chileno Valley - Two Rock (DN) - 11/26, 12/21, Sears Pt. - 12/10, Semelec, Sonoma (DA). Osprey 12/11, Inverness - Laguna de SR - 12/10, Bolinas Lagoon (BDP). Prairie Falcon 12/11, Inverness Park (BDP). Peregrine Falcon 11/19, Bodega Bay (NC, JRA) - 12/17, Abbot's Lagoon (BDP) - 12/4, Bodega Bay (NC). Merlin 12/8, Fountain Grove (MD) - 12/18, Olivet & River Rd - 12/11, Inverness Park (BDP). Long-eared Owl 12/10, mouth of Pine Gulch Creek (BDP). Short-eared Owl 12/17, Westside Rd (DE). Northern Pygmy Owl 12/10, Willow Creek Canyon (BDP).

Other Non-Passerines

Turkey 12/10, 9 at top of Willow Creek Canyon - 12/11, 14 at lower Willow Creek Canyon (BDP). White-throated Swift 11/25, El Dorado Co. (RR). Lewis Woodpecker 11/25, El Dorado Co. (RR).

Passerines

Phainopepla, Boy's Ranch Rd. (RR). Pygmy Nuthatch 12/5, Willow Creek Canyon (DE). White-throated Sparrow, regular in yard, Petaluma (W&DN) - Wikiup (B&BR). Swamp Sparrow 12/10, Inverness Park - 12/18, E. of Willowside Rd. (BDP) - 12/21, Willowside Rd. (DE). Red Crossbill 12/1, Angwin (WT) - Laguna de SR (DN) - 12/10, Five Brooks (BDP). Lapland Longspur 12/11, Spaletta Plateau (BDP).

Observers

Jack R. Arnold, Dick Ashford, Terry Babineaux, Rick LeBaudour, Nancy Conzett, Mark Delwitche, Doug Ellis, Dan Nelson, Wini Nelson, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Bob & Bertha Rains, Lois Roberts, Ruth Rudesill, Wayne Tillay, Dorothy Tobkin, Dan Wilson.

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
Vice-president - Wini Nelson, 400 Sunnyslope Ave., Petaluma 94952	762-6152
Secretary - Olive Corey, 422 Ridgeway, Santa Rosa 95401	542-8429
Treasurer - Sherryl Royce, 2340 Silk Rd., Windsor 95942	525-8141

CHAIRMEN

Field Trips - Dick Ashford, 731 Austin, Sonoma 95476	996-7508
Observations - Bob Rains, 450A Las Casitas, Santa Rosa 95403	528-6785
Social - Jean Smith, 519 Sunnyvale, Healdsburg 95448	433-2542
Christmas Count - Doug Ellis, PO Box 155, Eldridge 95431	585-0226
Kite Tales - Bertha Rains, 450A Las Casitas 95403	528-6785

MEMBERSHIP DUES RROS 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 RROS and sent to Sherryl Royce, Treasurer, at 2340 Silk Rd. Windsor, CA 95942.

Bertha Rains
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