

# Kite Tales

MARCH

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
Volume 23, No. 6

Sonoma County

1989

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

### March 9, Thursday - 7:30 p.m. - General Meeting and Board of Directors Meeting

The program will be "Antarctic Adventures", a slide presentation by Dave Shuford. Dave is a Field Biologist with Point Reyes Bird Observatory. He has made two trips to the Antarctic, the most recent as leader of a PRBO Natural Excursion in January of this year. He promises pictures of penguins, pelagics, and marine mammals. Dave is well known to RROS members, as he spoke to us on the Marin County Breeding Bird Atlas some time ago, a talk that encouraged our members and Madrone Audubon to start the Sonoma County Breeding Bird Atlas.

Board of Directors Meeting: There will be a brief meeting of the RROS Board of Directors at 7:15 p.m. in Darwin Hall prior to the General Meeting. All members are welcome to attend.

### March 18, Saturday - Field Trip to Skaggs and Tubbs Islands

Meeting Place: Parking area on Road to Skaggs Island.  
Proceed east on Hwy 37 about 1 mile beyond  
Time: 7:45 a.m. the bridge over Sonoma Creek. Turn left  
toward Skaggs Island to parking areas  
along road.

We will enter the Naval Reservation as a group at 8:00 a.m. There we can expect ducks, waterbirds, the Burrowing Owl, and raptors. Later we will go to Tubbs Island for shorebirds and more raptors, and perhaps a Ring-necked Pheasant. The navy representative has asked for the approximate number of birders and their names. Please let Bob Rains, trip leader, know if you plan to attend (528-6785).

## OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

### March 4, Saturday - Seminar, Sonoma County Breeding Bird Atlas

Meeting Place:	Round Table Pizza	This will be the only seminar for the 4th year of the Sonoma County Breeding Bird Atlas. Doug Ellis will present a tape on owl calls and tips on owl observations. He will lead the field trip.
Time: 3:00 p.m.	Orientation, Beginners	
4:00 p.m.	Owling Seminar	
5:00 p.m.	No host dinner	
6:00 p.m.	Owling Field Trip	

FIELD TRIP REPORT

Saturday, February 11 - Sonoma Coast and Salmon Creek

Only five birders braved the cold, windy coast on the trip that started slowly with the usual birds in small numbers. As it was very windy at Willow Creek, the leader, Doug Ellis, decided to try Salmon Creek for the evening owling. The group was rewarded with excellent views of a friendly Saw-whet Owl, the first Doug had seen in Sonoma County. A total of 10 Saw-whets, 2 Spotted Owls, 2 Western Screech Owls and 1 Northern Pygmy were heard during the evening walk.

The 86 species seen were:

Red-throated Loon, Pacific Loon, Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Brandt's Cormorant, Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Black Scoter, Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Golden Eagle, American Kestrel, California Quail, American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Black Oystercatcher, American Avocet, Greater Yellowlegs, Willet, Marbled Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Black Turnstone, Surfbird, Sanderling, Western Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Mew Gull, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, Herring Gull, Western Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Murrelet sp., Rhinoceros Auklet, Mourning Dove, Western Screech Owl, Northern Pygmy Owl, Spotted Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Northern Flicker, Scrub Jay, Common Raven, Marsh Wren, American Robin, Wrentit, Water Pipit, European Starling, Rufous-sided Towhee, Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS (continued)

March 7, Tuesday - Napa-Solano Breeding Bird Atlas

Meeting Place: Carolyn Parr Museum, 3107 Browns Valley Road, Napa.

Time: 7:00 p.m.

This is the organization meeting of another Breeding Bird Atlas. The Steering Committee for this project invites all who wish to help our neighboring county to the first pre-spring census meeting. For further information, call Bill Grummer at 942-0136 (Calistoga); Phil Burton, 963-5744 (St. Helena); Mike Rippey, 224-4509 (Napa); or Robin Leong 643-1287 (Vallejo).

March 29, Wednesday - Seminar, San Francisco Bay Shorebird Census

Meeting Place: Home of Joe Mailliard, 1184 Walnut Ave., Napa.

Time: 7:00 p.m. This seminar for the April 22-23 San Francisco Bay Shorebird Census is the nearest for many in Sonoma County. Other Seminars will be offered, and those who participated last year will receive the schedule from the PRBO committee.

OBSERVATIONS

Doug Ellis reports that in 1989, he has already located 17 different Northern Saw-whet and 11 Spotted Owls in Sonoma County. This brings his total of Spotted Owls in the county to 32. Apparently both species are more common than was previously believed. Is this the result of more owls or more and better owling?

Water and shorebirds

Pacific Loon 2/4, Goat Rock (RR). Red-necked Grebe 2/8, 7 at Sea Ranch (DN) - 2/12, McKerricher SP (DT) - 2/18, Sea Ranch (DE). White Pelican 2/15, 9 at Bodega Bay (NC) - 2/16, 5 at Hudeman Slough (DN). White-fronted Goose, February, Petaluma Sewer Ponds (DN). Snow Goose, Feb., Petaluma Sewer Ponds, (DN). Canada Goose Feb., about 600 near Stage Gulch Rd., (DN). Lesser Scaup 2/8, 200 at Bodega Bay (JRA). Clapper Rail 1/28, Hudeman Slough (DE). Whimbrel 2/8, 7 at Bodega Head (JRA). Long-billed Curlew 1/28, Hudeman Slough (DE). Pigeon Guillemot 2/12, McKerricher SP (DT). Rhinoceros Auklet 2/8, Sea Ranch (DN).

Raptors

Osprey 1/22, McKerricher SP (DT) - 2/1, Willowside Rd. (DN). Bald Eagle 2/5, Bodega Bay (NC). Ferruginous Hawk 1/28, Temelec (DE). Rough-legged Hawk 2/8, Bodega Bay (JRA). Peregrine Falcon 2/4, 2/5, Bodega Bay (RR, NC). Prairie Falcon 1/28, Ramal Rd (DE). Burrowing Owl 2/12, 4 at McKerricher SP (DT). Spotted Owl 2/9, 2 at Los Alamos Rd. - 2/18, Annapolis Rd. (DE). Short-eared Owl 1/28, Hudeman Slough (DE). Northern Saw-whet Owl 2/18, 3 near Annapolis Rd. (DE).

Other Non-passerines

Allen's Hummingbird 1/31, yard, Petaluma (DN). Pileated Woodpecker 2/17, Sonoma Mt. Rd. (DE).

Passerines

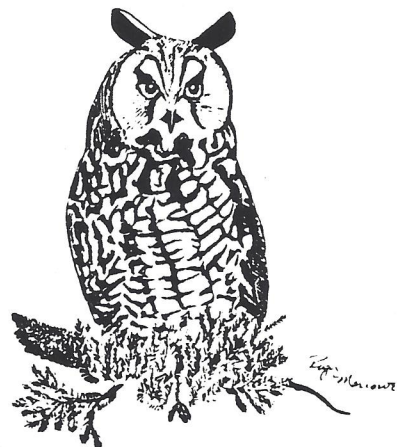
Tree Swallow 2/1, Willowside Rd. (DN). Rock Wren 2/2, Sonoma Mt. Rd. (DN). Northern Shrike 2/19, Woodland (RR). Orange-crowned Warbler singing 2/21, Channel Drive (DN). Rufous-crowned Sparrow 2/2 Sonoma Mt. Rd. (DN). Sage Sparrow 1/28, Cavedale Rd. (DE). Swamp Sparrow 2 at Hudeman Slough (DE). White-throated Sparrow daily in yard, Petaluma (DN, WN) - Wikiup (B&BR).

Observers

Jack Arnold, Nancy Conzett, Doug Ellis, Dan Nelson, Bob and Bertha Rains, Ruth Rudesill, Dorothy Tobkin.

DEADLINE

March 27, Monday,  
will be the deadline  
for the April  
Kite Tales.



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  
450-A Las Casitas  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

