

Kite Tales

DECEMBER

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Vol 24, No. 4 Sonoma County

1989

COMING ATTRACTIONS

December 14, Thursday - 7:30 p.m. General Meeting

Dr. John Arnold will present his tuition-free Christmas Bird Count Ornithology Class again this month. Come prepared to sharpen your skills on bird identification and bird counting before the 1989 CBCs. Jack promises slides, a film, skins, and a non-graded quiz. Reminder: do bring your binoculars.

December 17, Sunday - SANTA ROSA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Rain or shine, the 30th Santa Rosa Count will be on Sunday, the 17th. The count area covers a circle of $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles radius with the center at the Santa Rosa City Hall. Territorial leaders will remain basically the same unless someone is unable to do the count this year. Some of you may have been organized already in a team by Doug Ellis, Coordinator. If not there will be a sign up sheet at the December meeting. You may also phone Doug evenings at 539-3443, or drop him a note at P O Box 155, Eldridge 95431. Newcomers are welcome to assist in areas where needed.

Once again the count fee is \$4.00.

The Potluck Supper and Countdown will be at the Wikiup Greens Clubhouse. Bring only food to share - soup, chili, salad, dessert - whatever. Plates and utensils will be provided. Arrive any time after 4:30 p.m.; supper at 5:30 p.m.; compilation at 6:30 p.m.

Directions: Take Hwy 101 north of Santa Rosa; exit on River Road; east to Old Redwood Hwy. (first signal); turn left (north) and proceed about 1 mile, crossing the bridge over Mark West Creek; take first right onto Wikiup Drive; then east about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile;; take a right turn on Las Casitas for very short block and then left. Parking is on the left side; the Clubhouse is on the right side of Las Casitas. If you are unable to do the count, you are welcome at the Potluck Supper and Countdown.

Regional Christmas Counts

For those who wish to participate in other nearby CBCs, please refer to the list of leaders in the November Kite Tales. Betty Burrige and Deyea Harper will have a sign up sheet at the December meeting for the Western Sonoma Count.

DEADLINE: January Kite Tales deadline is December 26th.

FIELD TRIP REPORT

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Five Brooks - Bolinas Lagoon - Pine Gulch

The bird of the day was the Sharp-tailed Sparrow, a life bird for 9 of the 16 who went with Dan Nelson, leader, on November 11th. With patience and several sharp eyes, everyone got good sightings of the 3, or perhaps even 4, individual sparrows. Dan had found a Black- and White Warbler at Stinson Beach when he was checking out the area, and it was still there. At Five Brooks, the owl call brought in 40 or more Ruby-crowned Kinglets who flitted around like a flock of Bushtits. Mike Nelligan spotted a Gray Fox on a limb close by the trail at Pine Gulch. The fox quietly watched a minute, then scooted away.

The 106 species seen were:

Pacific Loon	Killdeer	Winter Wren
Common Loon	American Avocet	Marsh Wren
Pied-billed Grebe	Greater Yellowlegs	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Horned Grebe	Willet	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Western Grebe	Whimbrel	Hermit Thrush
Sooty Shearwater	Marbled Godwit	American Robin
Brown Pelican	Least Sandpiper	Varied Thrush
Double-cr. Cormorant	Common Snipe	Wrentit
Pelagic Cormorant	Parasitic Jaeger	American Pipit
Great Blue Heron	Bonaparte's Gull	European Starling
Great Egret	Heermann's Gull	Hutton's Vireo
Snowy Egret	Mew Gull	Orange-crowned Warbler
Green-winged Teal	Ring-billed Gull	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Mallard	California Gull	Townsend's Warbler
Northern Pintail	Herring Gull	Black-and-white Warbler
Northern Shoveler	Western Gull	Common Yellowthroat
Gadwall	Glaucous-winged Gull	Rufous-sided Towhee
Eurasian Wigeon	Forster's Tern	California Towhee
American Wigeon	Band-tailed Pigeon	Sharp-tailed Sparrow
Lesser Scaup	Barn Owl	Savannah Sparrow
Harlequin Duck	Anna's Hummingbird	Fox Sparrow
Surf Scoter	Belted Kingfisher	Song Sparrow
White-winged Scoter	Acorn Woodpecker	Lincoln's Sparrow
Common Goldeneye	Downy Woodpecker	Swamp Sparrow
Bufflehead	Hairy Woodpecker	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Ruddy Duck	Northern Flicker	White-crowned Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Black Phoebe	Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Harrier	Steller's Jay	Red-winged Blackbird
Red-shouldered Hawk	Scrub Jay	Western Meadowlark
Red-tailed Hawk	American Crow	Brewer's Blackbird
American Kestrel	Chestnut-b. Chickadee	Purple Finch
Merlin	Bushtit	House Finch
Peregrine Falcon	Pygmy Nuthatch	Pine Siskin
California Quail	Brown Creeper	Lesser Goldfinch
Virginia Rail	Bewick's Wren	House Sparrow
American Coot		

Participants: Avis Anderson, Jack Arnold, Terry Babineaux, Betty Burrige, Doug Ellis, Mary Finn, Betty Groce, Louise and Don Johnstor Mike Nelligan, Dan Nelson, Mike Parmeter, Bob and Bertha Rains, Ru Rudesill, Wayne Tillay.

Water and Shorebirds

American Bittern 11/26, Sea Ranch (RR). **Little Blue Heron** 11/7, Clear Lake Sewer Ponds (BB). **White-faced Ibis** 11/24, 2 at Thornton (RR). **Snow Goose** 10.29, 35 at Sebastopol Recreation Center (DN) - 11/20, over 100 at Jameson Canyon (B&BR). **Canada Goose** 11/26, 3 at Sea Ranch - (1 **Cackling Goose**) (RR). **Wood Duck** 11/23, 4 at Guerneville (BDP). **Harlequin Duck** 11/23, Sea Ranch (ER). **Black Scoter** 11/26, Sea Ranch (RR). **Hooded Merganser** 11/10, Pudding Creek Fort Bragg, (DT). **Common Merganser** 11/23, 7 at Guerneville (BDP) - Wikiup (B&BR). **Clapper Rail** 11/23, 2 at Hudemann Slough (RR). **Sandhill Crane** 11/24, Thornton (RR). **Snowy Plover** 10/22, 31 at McKerricher SP (DT). **Lesser Golden Plover** (fulva) 11/5, RCA Station (BDP) - Pudding Creek - 10/29 to 11/23, McKerricher SP (DT). **Mountain Plover** 11/11, McKerricher SP (DT). **Rock Sandpiper** 11/11, McKerricher SP (DT). **Mew Gull** 11/7, Freezeout Rd. (JRA). **Rhinoceros Auklet** 10/22, 11/4 to 11/18, McKerricher SP (DT).

Raptors

Bald Eagle 11/24, El Dorado Hills (RR). **Golden Eagle** 11/23, Los Amigos Rd., Napa (BDP). **Osprey** 11/23, Guerneville (BDP). **Ferruginous Hawk** 11/29, Old Adobe Rd. (TB) - 11/24, El Dorado Hills (RR). **Rough-legged Hawk** 11/28, Salmon Creek (DT,DE) - 11/24, El Dorado Hills (RR). **Merlin** 10/22, 11/5, McKerricher SP (DT). **Peregrine Falcon** 11/5, McKerricher SP (DT). **Prairie Falcon** 11/18, Cheney Gulch (RR). **Gyr Falcon** 11/11, Tule Lake (DN). **Burrowing Owl** regularly, Pudding Creek (DT).

Other Non-Passerines

Lewis Woodpecker 11/24, Boys Ranch Rd., Sacramento Co. (RR). **Pileated Woodpecker** 11/24, Pudding Creek (DT). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** 11/25, Pine Gulch Creek (DA).

Passerines

Horned Lark 10/28, McKerricher SP (DT). **Phainopepla** 11/24, Boys Ranch Rd. (RR). **Palm Warbler** 11/13, Fort Bragg (DT) - 11/25, Pine Gulch Creek (DA). **Clay-colored Sparrow** 10/28-29, Sebastopol Recreation Center (DE, DN). **Swamp Sparrow** 11/2, 2 at Hole in the Head - 2 on Willow Creek Rd. (DN) - 11/5, White House Pool (BDP). **White-throated Sparrow** (see below). **Harris Sparrow** 11/17, 11/19, Los Amigos Rd. (DN, BDP, RR). **Lapland Longspur** 11/5, RCA Station (BDP).

Sonoma Coast Pelagic

On November 18th, Doug Ellis and Ruth Rudesill cruised along the Sonoma County Coast in Ruth's brother, Eric's, boat and saw a **Red-necked Grebe**, 12 **Northern Fulmars** - 1 light phase, 6 **Buller's Shearwaters**, several dozen **Sooty Shearwaters**, 2 **Short-tailed Shearwaters**, **Pomarine Jaeger** a light phase sub-adult, **Pigeon Guillemot**, 2 **Ancient Murrelets**, 5 **Cassin's Auklets**, at least 30 **Rhinoceros Auklets**, 1 **Tufted Puffin**. Also seen were many **Common Murres**, **Scoters**, **Pacific Loons**, **Brown Pelicans**, gulls and cormorants.

White throated Sparrow.

This fall, **White-throated Sparrows** have been seen in the yards of the Babineaux', Olive Corey, the Nelsons, the Rains', and 2 in the yard with the Harris Sparrow on Los Amigos Road. They have returned regularly for several years to the Santa Rosa Junior College Campus, the Nelson's and Rains' yards.

Observers: Jack Arnold, Dick Ashford, Terry Babineaux, Betty Burrige, Olive Corey, Doug Ellis, Dan and Wini Nelson, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Bob and Bertha Rains, Ruth and Eric 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 - Wini Nelson, 400 Sunnyslope Ave., Petaluma 94952 762-6152
Vice-president - Les Hood, 14115 Ettawa Springs Rd.,
Middletown 95461
Secretary - Olive Corey, 422 Ridgeway, Santa Rosa 95401 542-8429
Treasurer - Sherryl Royce, 2340 Silk Rd., Windsor 95492 525-8141

CHAIRMEN

Field Trips - Dan Nelson, 400 Sunnyslope Ave., Petaluma 94952 762-6152
Observations - Bob Rains, 450-A 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, 450-A Las Casitas, Santa Rosa 95403 528-6785

MEMBERSHIP DUES RROS dues are \$10 for Family, \$7.50 for Individual, \$3 for Student. Memberships cover the period from July 1989 to June 1990 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 L. Rains
450A Las Casitas
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