

Kite Tales

JANUARY

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Vol. 14, No. 5

1990

COMING ATTRACTIONS

January 11, Thursday - 7:30 p.m., General Meeting

The program is up to you, the members. It's Slide Night - the time for all of us to check out those slides we have enjoyed. Others will too. In the past, we have had slides of exotic birds, vacation trip birds, backyard birds, and even mystery birds. For some of us who like our subjects staying still, we may select wildflower pictures, scenery, or even birdwatchers. Come, bring a friend and start the new year with an evening of sharing memories.

January 13, Saturday - Field Trip to the Delta and Grizzly Island

Time:	9:00 a.m.	Sandhill Cranes, Tundra Swans, hawks,
Meeting Place:	Don Quik Store, Rio Vista	and ducks are target birds for the Delta, and Short-eared Owls are the
Car-pooling:	7:00 a.m., Bailey Field	Grizzly Island specialty. Dan Nelson is the leader for the trip, and we all join him in hoping for clearer weather

than in '89. Walking is on level roads or paths, but prepare for possible muddy areas. Please bring lunch. For those planning to go to Grizzly Island in the afternoon, the California Department of Fish and Game Save Our Wild Places fee of \$2.25 per person goes into effect on January 1, 1990. Grizzly Island is one of nine wildlife areas included in the newly authorized fees. Annual passes are also available for \$10. To order by credit card, phone 1-800-The Wild, or mail to Save our Wild Places, California Department of Fish and Game, 3211 S Street, Sacramento CA 95816.

SONOMA COUNTY BIG DAYS

Two Sonoma County Big Days were held on April 29th; the first one in 1978 Laurence Binford, John and Mike Parmeter, and Kent Van Vuren, and the second one in 1989 with Doug Ellis, Dan Nelson and Ruth Rudesill.

Mike and his group found 171 species while Doug, Dan, and Ruth saw 162. Assuming the level of expertise to be similar, and as the April date is the same, the difference in success may have been the routes taken or the weather. Ruth did report poor weather on the 1989 Big Day, and conditions on the 1978 count was not available. As to the routes taken, the Binford, Parmeter, Van Vuren group started at Rudemann Slough where they found rails, to Ida Clayton Road for owls and landbirds, to Franz Valley Road, the Russian River, Jenner, the Sonoma Coast, Bodega Bay, and the Laguna de Santa Rosa. The Ellis, Nelson, Rudesill party started on Skaggs Springs Road to Annapolis, Gualala, then via Tin Barn Road and King Ridge Road to Cazadero, on to the mouth of the Russian River, to Bodega Bay, Petaluma and on to Ramal Road, to Cavedale Road and then to Sonoma Valley.

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Deadline: January 23rd will be the deadline for the February Kite Tales.

Sonoma County Big Days (continued)

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There were 138 species seen by both parties:

Red-throated Loon	Am. Bl. Oystercatcher	Belted Kingfisher	European Starling
Common Loon	Greater Yellowlegs	Acorn Woodpecker	Solitary Vireo
Pied-billed Grebe	Willet	Hairy Woodpecker	Hutton's Vireo
Eared Grebe	Wandering Tattler	Northern Flicker	Orange-crowned Warbler
Western Grebe	Whimbrel	Pileated Woodpecker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Brown Pelican	Long-billed Curlew	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Black-thr. Gray Warbler
Double-cr. Cormorant	Marbled Godwit	Pac. Sl. Flycatcher	MacGillivray's Warbler
Brandt's Cormorant	Black Turnstone	Black Phoebe	Common Yellowthroat
Pelagic Cormorant	Surfbird	Ash-throated Flycatcher	Wilson's Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Western Sandpiper	Western Kingbird	Western Tanager
Great Egret	Least Sandpiper	Tree Swallow	Black-headed Grosbeak
Wood Duck	Dunlin	Violet-green Swallow	Lazuli Bunting
Mallard	Short-billed Dowitcher	N. Rough-winged Swallow	Rufous-sided Towhee
Northern Pintail	Bonaparte's Gull	Cliff Swallow	California Towhee
Cinnamon Teal	Ring-billed Gull	Barn Swallow	Rufous-crowned Sparrow
Greater Scaup	California Gull	Steller's Jay	Chipping Sparrow
Surf Scoter	Herring Gull	Scrub Jay	Lark Sparrow
White-winged Scoter	Western Gull	American Crow	Savannah Sparrow
Bufflehead	Glaucous-winged Gull	Common Raven	Song Sparrow
Common Merganser	Caspian Tern	Chestnut-b. Chickadee	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Ruddy Duck	Forster's Tern	Plain Titmouse	White-crowned Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Common Murre	Bushtit	Dark-eyed Junco
Osprey	Pigeon Guillemot	White-breasted Nuthatch	Red-winged Blackbird
Black-shouldered Kite	Rock Dove	Pygmy Nuthatch	Western Meadowlark
Northern Harrier	Band-tailed Pigeon	Brown Creeper	Brewer's Blackbird
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Mourning Dove	Bewick's Wren	Brown-headed Cowbird
Red-shouldered Hawk	Barn Owl	House Wren	Northern Oriole
Red-tailed Hawk	Western Screech Owl	Winter Wren	Purple Finch
American Kestrel	Great Horned Owl	Marsh Wren	House Finch
California Quail	Northern Pygmy Owl	Western Bluebird	Pine Siskin
Mountain Quail	Spotted Owl	Hermit Thrush	Lesser Goldfinch
American Coot	Common Poorwill Owl	American Robin	American Goldfinch
Black-bellied Plover	Vaux's Swift	Wrentit	House Sparrow
Semipalmated Plover	Anna's Hummingbird	Northern Mockingbird	
Killdeer	Allen's Hummingbird	Cedar Waxwing	

The 33 additional species seen by Binford, Parmeters, and Van Vuren:

Horned Grebe	White-throated Swift
Red-necked Grebe	Lewis' Woodpecker
Sooty Shearwater	Nuttall's Woodpecker
Green-backed Heron	Western Wood Pewee
Brant	Rock Wren
Black Scoter	Varied Thrush
Red-breasted Merganser	California Thrasher
Cooper's Hawk	Phainopepla
Golden Eagle	Loggerhead Shrike
Ring-necked Pheasant	Warbling Vireo
Clapper Rail	Nashville Warbler
Virginia Rail	Yellow Warbler
Snowy Plover	Townsend's Warbler
Spotted Sandpiper	Hermit Warbler
Sanderling	Yellow-breasted Chat
Red-necked Phalarope	Sage Sparrow
Black-legged Kittiwake	

The 24 additional species seen by Ellis, Nelson, and Rudesill:

Pacific Loon	Ruddy Turnstone
Snowy Egret	Long-billed Dowitcher
Black-cr. Night Heron	Marbled Murrelet
Canada Goose	Rhinoceros Auklet
Green-winged Teal	N. Saw-whet Owl
Northern Shoveler	Horned Lark
Gadwall	Purple Martin
Lesser Scaup	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Blue Grouse	American Dipper
Wild Turkey	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Black-necked Stilt	Swainson's Thrush
American Avocet	Grasshopper Sparrow

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OBSERVATIONS

Water and Shorebirds

Cattle Egret 12/9, Willowside Rd. (RM,RR). **Green-backed Heron** 12/17, Fort Bragg (DT). **Wood Duck** 12/15, 20 at Fountain Grove Lake (JM). **Eurasian Wigeon** 12/13, Bolinas Lagoon (JM) - Santa Rosa Cemetery Sewer Pond (CM) - Tubbs Island (DN). **Canvasback** 11/29, 500 at Salt Ponds, Hwy. 37, (JM). **Redhead** 11/29, 4 at Salt Ponds, Hwy. 37 - 12/21, 2 at Sea Ranch Pond (JM). **Harlequin Duck** 12/13, Bolinas Lagoon (JM). **Oldsquaw** 12/19, Bodega Bay (NC,DN) - 12/21, pair on Russian River, near junction Hwy 1 & 116 (JM). **Hooded Merganser** through December, 5 at Pudding Creek (DT). **Lesser Golden Plover** 11/12, Several fulvas and dominicas at Tomales Bay (JM). **Mountain Plover** 11/11 through 12/16, McKerricher SP (DT). **Franklin's Gull** 12/9, Willowside Rd. (RR). **Bonaparte's Gull** 11/29, flock at Salt Ponds, Hwy 37 (JM). **Black-legged Kittiwake** 12/29, Spud Point (NC).

Raptors

Bald Eagle 11/17, 12 at Tule Lake - 11/19, 3 at Lake Hennesey (JM). **Rough-legged Hawk** 12/1, Guerneville & Marlowe Rds. (JM). **Merlin** 11/29, Hwy 37, (JM) - 12/8, Sebastopol (DN) - 12/16, Pudding Creek (DT) - 12/29, Bodega Bay (NC). **Peregrine Falcon** 12/13, Bolinas Lagoon (JM). **Prairie Falcon** 11/17, 3 at Tule Lake (JM). **Gyrfalcon** 11/17, Tule Lake (JM). **Barn Owl** 12/27, Fort Bragg (DT).

Other Non-Passerines

White-throated Swift 12/2, 90 on Mt. St. Helena (BDP). **Selasphorus Hummingbird** all winter through 12/29, in yard, Bodega Bay (NC).

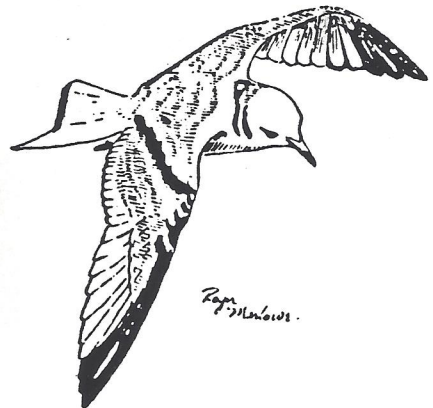
Passerines

Least Flycatcher 12/16, White House Pool (BDP). **Mountain Chickadee** 12/2, Mt. St. Helena (BDP). **Rock Wren** 12/13, Warm Springs Dam (DN). **Townsend's Solitaire** 12/2, many on Mt. St. Helena (BDP). **Northern Shrike** 11/17, Tule Lake (JM). **Nashville Warbler** 12/9, Deikman's Store, Bodega Bay (DN). **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** 12/13 Bolinas Bay (JM). **White-throated Sparrow** 12/24, Bodega Harbor (NC).

Observers: Nancy Conzett, John MacDonagh, Carol McMillan, Roger Marlowe, Dan Nelson, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Ruth Rudesill, Dorothy Tobkin.

AOU NAME CHANGES

The 37th Supplement to the American Ornithologists Union Checklist of North American Birds contains several changes. The ones that concern the birds commonly reported in the Kite Tales are the Western Flycatcher, now the Pacific Slope Flycatcher (west of the crest of the Sierras); the Water Pipit, now the American Pipit; and the Brown Towhee, the California Towhee.



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
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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.

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