

Kite Tales

MARCH

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Vol. 14, No. 6 Sonoma County

1990

COMING ATTRACTIONS

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

Phil Henderson, Point Reyes Bird Observatory Biologist, will present the program, Birds of the Farallons. Phil has spent much of his 15 years at PRBO studying birds and mammals on the Farallons Islands. The Farallons are well known as a vagrant bird trap. Resarchers at PRBO have taken slides of the Eastern and Siberian strays they have caught to document the sightings of these rarities. Phil will bring a selection of these slides.

March 17 Saturday - Field Trip to Bodega Bay

Time: 8:30 a.m. Wintering ducks and shorebirds will still be
Meeting Place: Rail Ponds at Bodega Bay. We may check to see if the
Parking Area Oldsquaw is still there. Rails may respond
more readily in early spring. Reminder:
bring lunch and suitable clothing for coastal weather.

March 10, Saturday - Sonoma County Breeding Bird Atlas Seminar

Time: 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. Drop in for information and selection of
Meeting Place: Round Table Pizza of blocks for this 5th year of data
in Montgomery collection. Join friends for dinner
Village and owling with Doug Ellis in the
Owling: 6:00 p.m. evening. Should you be unable to come
to the seminar, phone Betty Burrige,
527-0225, for selection of block or blocks. Betty will arrange for
mailing of maps and data cards.

SONOMA COUNTY BIG YEARS

There is challenge and enjoyment in Big Days and Big Years. Four birders have kindly given us their records of Sonoma County Big Years: Mike Parmeter in 1981, and Dan Nelson, Doug Ellis, and Ruth Rudesill in 1989. On page 2, are listed the 242 species seen by all four. Following these on page 3 are lists of additional species seen by each participant.

Deadline: March 27th will be the deadline for the April Kite Tales.

SONOMA COUNTY BIG YEARS

The 242 Species Seen by All Four Participants

Red-throated Loon	American Kestrel	Black Tern	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Pacific Loon	Merlin	Common Murre	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Common Loon	Peregrine Falcon	Pigeon Guillemot	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Pied-billed Grebe	Prairie Falcon	Marbled Murrelet	Western Bluebird
Horned Grebe	Ring-necked Pheasant	Ancient Murrelet	Swainson's Thrush
Red-necked Grebe	Blue Grouse	Cassin's Auklet	Hermit Thrush
Eared Grebe	California Quail	Rhinoceros Auklet	American Robin
Western Grebe	Mountain Quail	Rock Dove	Varied Thrush
Northern Fulmar	Clapper Rail	Band-tailed Pigeon	Wrentit
Buller's Shearwater	Virginia Rail	Mourning Dove	Northern Mockingbird
Sooty Shearwater	Sora	Barn Owl	American Pipit
American White Pelican	Common Moorhen	Western Screech-owl	Cedar Waxwing
Brown Pelican	American Coot	Great Horned Owl	Loggerhead Shrike
Double-cr. Cormorant	Black-bellied Plover	Northern Pygmy-owl	European Starling
Brandt's Cormorant	Lesser Golden Plover	Spotted Owl	Solitary Vireo
Pelagic Cormorant	Snowy Plover	Short-eared Owl	Hutton's Vireo
Great Blue Heron	Semipalmated Plover	Northern Saw-whet Owl	Warbling Vireo
Great Egret	Killdeer	Common Poorwill	Orange-crowned Warbler
Snowy Egret	Am. Black Oystercatcher	Vaux's Swift	Nashville Warbler
Cattle Egret	Black-necked Stilt	White-throated Swift	Yellow Warbler
Green-backed Heron	American Avocet	Anna's Hummingbird	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Black-cr. Night-heron	Greater Yellowlegs	Allen's Hummingbird	Black-thr. Gray Warbler
Tundra Swan	Lesser Yellowlegs	Belted Kingfisher	Townsend's Warbler
Ross' Goose	Willet	Acorn Woodpecker	Hermit Warbler
Brant	Wandering Tattler	Nuttall's Woodpecker	Palm Warbler
Canada Goose	Spotted Sandpiper	Downy Woodpecker	American Redstart
Wood Duck	Whimbrel	Hairy Woodpecker	MacGillivray's Warbler
Green-winged Teal	Long-billed Curlew	Northern Flicker	Common Yellowthroat
Mallard	Marbled Godwit	Pileated Woodpecker	Wilson's Warbler
Northern Pintail	Ruddy Turnstone	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Yellow-breasted Chat
Blue-winged Teal	Black Turnstone	Western Wood Pewee	Western Tanager
Cinnamon Teal	Surfbird	Willow Flycatcher	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Northern Shoveler	Red Knot	Western Flycatcher	Black-headed Grosbeak
Gadwall	Sanderling	Black Phoebe	Lazuli Bunting
American Wigeon	Western Sandpiper	Say's Phoebe	Rufous-sided Towhee
Canvasback	Least Sandpiper	Ash-throated Flycatcher	California Towhee
Redhead	Baird's Sandpiper	Western Kingbird	Rufous-crowned Sparrow
Ring-necked Duck	Pectoral Sandpiper	Horned Lark	Chipping Sparrow
Greater Scaup	Dunlin	Purple Martin	Lark Sparrow
Lesser Scaup	Short-billed Dowitcher	Tree Swallow	Sage Sparrow
Harlequin Duck	Long-billed Dowitcher	Violet-green Swallow	Savannah Sparrow
Black Scoter	Common Snipe	N. Rough-winged Swallow	Grasshopper Sparrow
Surf Scoter	Wilson's Phalarope	Cliff Swallow	Fox Sparrow
White-winged Scoter	Red-necked Phalarope	Barn Swallow	Song Sparrow
Common Goldeneye	Red Phalarope	Steller's Jay	Lincoln's Sparrow
Bufflehead	Pomarine Jaeger	Scrub Jay	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Common Merganser	Parasitic Jaeger	American Crow	White-crowned Sparrow
Red-breasted Merganser	Bonaparte's Gull	Common Raven	Dark-eyed Junco
Ruddy Duck	Heerman's Gull	Chestnut-b. Chickadee	Red-winged Blackbird
Turkey Vulture	Mew Gull	Plain Titmouse	Tricolored Blackbird
Osprey	Ring-billed Gull	Bushtit	Western Meadowlark
Black-shouldered Kite	California Gull	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Brewer's Blackbird
Northern Harrier	Herring Gull	White-breasted Nuthatch	Brown-headed Cowbird
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Thayer's Gull	Pygmy Nuthatch	Hooded Oriole
Cooper's Hawk	Western Gull	Brown Creeper	Northern Oriole
Red-shouldered Hawk	Glaucous-winged Gull	Rock Wren	Purple Finch
Red-tailed Hawk	Black-legged Kittiwake	Bewick's Wren	House Finch
Ferruginous Hawk	Caspian Tern	House Wren	Pine Siskin
Rough-legged Hawk	Elegant Tern	Winter Wren	Lesser Goldfinch
Golden Eagle	Forster's Tern	Marsh Wren	American Goldfinch
		American Dipper	House Sparrow

SONOMA COUNTY BIG YEARS

Additional Species List

Mike Parmeter: 27 additional species: total - 269

Black-footed Albatross	Stilt Sandpiper	Lewis' Woodpecker	Blackpoll Warbler
Pink-footed Shearwater	South Polar Skua	Yellow-b. Sapsucker	Indigo Bunting
Flesh-footed Shearwater	Sabine's Gull	Dusky Flycatcher	Lark Bunting
Gr. White-fronted Goose	Common Tern	Canyon Wren	Yellow-h. Blackbird
Snow Goose	Least Tern	Red-eyed Vireo	Lawrence's Goldfinch
Black Rail	Black Skimmer	Tennessee Warbler	Evening Grosbeak
Rock Sandpiper	Tufted Puffin	N. Parula Warbler	

Ruth Rudesill: 26 additional species: total - 268

Clark's Grebe	Bald Eagle	Common Nighthawk	Brown Thrasher
Short-tailed Shearwater	Wild Turkey	Rufous Hummingbird	California Thrasher
American Bittern	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Lewis' Woodpecker	Northern Waterthrush
Eurasian Wigeon	Franklin's Gull	Red-br. Sapsucker	Swamp Sparrow
Oldsquaw	Arctic Tern	Tropical Kingbird	White-throated Sparrow
Barrow's Goldeneye	Tufted Puffin	Townsend's Solitaire	Red Crossbill
Hooded Merganser	Burrowing Owl		

Doug Ellis: 31 additional species: total - 273

Clark's Grebe	Bald Eagle	Rufous Hummingbird	Magnolia Warbler
Short-tailed Shearwater	Wild Turkey	Red-br. Sapsucker	Blackpoll Warbler
American Bittern	Black Rail	Dusky Flycatcher	Northern Waterthrush
Gr. White-fronted Goose	Franklin's Gull	Tropical Kingbird	Clay-colored Sparrow
Eurasian Wigeon	Arctic Tern	Brown Thrasher	White-thr. Sparrow
Oldsquaw	Tufted Puffin	California Thrasher	Red Crossbill
Barrow's Goldeneye	Burrowing Owl	Tennessee Warbler	Lawrence's Goldfinch
Hooded Merganser	Common Nighthawk	Chestnut-s. Warbler	

Dan Nelson: 39 additional species: total - 281, plus 1 sub-species*

Clark's Grebe	Wild Turkey	Tropical Kingbird	Northern Waterthrush
American Bittern	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Canyon Wren	Indigo Bunting
White-faced Ibis	Franklin's Gull	Townsend's Solitaire	Am. Tree Sparrow
Gr. White-fronted Goose	Glaucous Gull	Brown Thrasher	Clay-colored Sparrow
Snow Goose	Burrowing Owl	California Thrasher	Swamp Sparrow
Eurasian Wigeon	Common Nighthawk	Tennessee Warbler	White-thr. Spa
Oldsquaw	Rufous Hummingbird	Chestnut-s. Warbler	Red Crossbill
Barrow's Goldeneye	Lewis' Woodpecker	Magnolia Warbler	Lawrence's Goldfinch
Hooded Merganser	Red-breasted Sapsucker	Blackburnian Warbler	Evening Grosbeak
Bald Eagle	Dusky Flycatcher	Blackpoll Warbler	

*Bullock's Oriole (added sub-species)

Note: Mike did not report Clark's Grebe as it had not yet been split from the Western Grebe.

Mike reported the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. In 1981, the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker had not been split into the Red-breasted and Red-naped. If he had observed the Red-breasted, then all four participants would have seen that species. The total for all would then be 243 species, and one less additional species for each.

FIELD TRIP REPORT

Sonoma Coast and Owling at Willow Creek

The bird of the day was the adult Bald Eagle that slowly soared past just above Bridgehaven. The bird of the evening was a Spotted Owl that perched nearby and called while we were watching. Nine species of raptors were seen on this trip led by Dan Nelson.

The 91 species seen were:

Pacific Loon	Turkey Vulture	Band-tailed Pigeon	Western Bluebird
Common Loon	Osprey	Barn Owl	Hermit Thrush
Pied-billed Grebe	Bald Eagle	Western Screech Owl	American Robin
Horned Grebe	Northern Harrier	Great Horned Owl	Varied Thrush
Eared Grebe	Red-shouldered Hawk	Northern Pygmy Owl	Wrentit
Western Grebe	Red-tailed Hawk	Spotted Owl	European Starling
Double cr. Cormorant	Ferruginous Hawk	Northern Saw-whet Owl	Hutton's Vireo
Pelagic Cormorant	Golden Eagle	Belted Kingfisher	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Great Blue Heron	American Kestrel	Hairy Woodpecker	Townsend's Warbler
Great Egret	Peregrine Falcon	Northern Flicker	Rufous-sided Towhee
Snowy Egret	California Quail	Black Phoebe	California Towhee
Gadwall	Virginia Rail	Tree Swallow	Fox Sparrow
American Wigeon	American Coot	Steller's Jay	Song Sparrow
Canvasback	Willet	Scrub Jay	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Redhead	Marbled Godwit	Common Raven	White-crowned Sparrow
Scaup sp.	Black Turnstone	Chestnut-b. Chickadee	Dark-eyed Junco
Surf Scoter	Mew Gull	Bushtit	Red-winged Blackbird
White-winged Scoter	Ring-billed Gull	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Western Meadowlark
Common Goldeneye	California Gull	Brown Creeper	Brewer's Blackbird
Bufflehead	Herring Gull	Bewick's Wren	House Finch
Common Merganser	Western Gull	Winter Wren	Pine Siskin
Red-br. Merganser	Glaucous-winged Gull	Marsh Wren	House Sparrow
Ruddy Duck	Forster's Tern	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	

Participants:

Jack Arnold, Carol Brant, Robbie Gortner, Ann Denison, Doug Ellis Mike Hogan, Lorraine McKenzie, Dan and Winnie Nelson, Bob and Bertha Rains, Clarence Wolcott.



OBSERVATIONS

Water and Shorebirds

Red-throated Loon 2/11, Spring Lake (RR). **Pacific Loon** 2/19, 50 at Bodega Bay (RR). **Clark's Grebe** 2/19 Bodega Bay (RR). **Fork-tailed Storm Petrel** 2/18, Bodega Bay Jetty (DA). **Tundra Swan** 2/15, Chileno Valley (DN). **Snow Goose** 2/11, Spring Lake (RR). **Canada Goose** 2/11, flock over Sonoma Valley - (cackling) Spring Lake (RR) - Bridgehaven (JM). **Eurasian Wigeon** 1/20, Sacramento Wildlife Refuge (JM). **Redhead** 2/19, Sea Horse Ranch (DN). **Oldsquaw** 2/10, McKerricher SP (DT) - 2/19, Bodega Bay (RR). **Barrows Goldeneye** 1/21, Solano Lake (JH). **Hooded Merganser** 1/21, Solano Lake (JH). **Mountain Plover**, 1/21, 500 at Knights Landing (JH) - 1/21, McKerricher SP (DT) - 2/14, Tubbs Island (JM). **Black-necked Stilt** 1/20, Sacramento Wildlife refuge (JH).

American Avocet 1/20 Sacramento WR (JH). **Wandering Tattler** 2/8, Bridgehaven (JM). **Surfbird** 2/8, Bridgehaven (JM). **Sabine's Gull** 1/15, Bodega Harbor (JA). **Marbled Murrelet** 2/19, Bodega Bay (RR).

Raptors

Osprey 1/21, Solano Lake (JH). **Bald Eagle** 2/8, Duncan's Mills (JM) - 2/9, Willow Creek (DN). **Sharp-shinned Hawk** 1/29, took California Quail in yard, Wikiup (B&BR) - 2/7, took woodpecker in yard, Santa Rosa (JA). **Ferruginous Hawk** 1/21, Knights Landing (JH) - 2/10 Irish Beach (DT) - 2/10, Stage Gulch Dump (RR). **Rough-legged Hawk** 2/10, Cader Lane (RR). **Peregrine Falcon** 2/8, Fish Docks (DW) - 2/8, Willow Creek (DN).

Other Non-Passerines

Band-tailed Pigeon 2/10, flocks of 200 in area, 50 at a time in yard, Dry Creek Rd. (CW). **Rufous Hummingbird** 2/11, at feeder in yard, Wikiup (B&BR). **Allen's Hummingbird** 2/21, Wikiup (B&BR). **Selasphorus Hummingbird** 2/17, in yard, Santa Rosa (JA).

Passerines

Tree Swallow 2/11, Manchester (DT). **Varied Thrush** 2/7, 6 in yard, Dry Creek Rd. (CW). **Nashville Warbler** 2/19, Diekmann's Store (DN). **White-throated Sparrow** 2/8, Duncan's Mills - 2/19, Penngrove (DN) - in yard to 2/21, (B&BR) **Harris' Sparrow** 2/19, Penngrove (DN).

Observers

Jack Arnold, Dick Ashford, Joel Hornstein, John McDonagh, Dan Nelson, Bob and Bertha Rains, Ruth Rudesill, Dorothy Tobkin, and Clarence Wolcott.



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 539-3443
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.

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