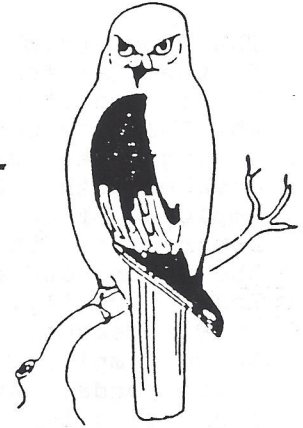


Kite Tales

DECEMBER 1990

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Vol. 15, No. 4

Sonoma County



COMING ATTRACTIONS

December 13, Thursday - 7:30 p.m. General Meeting

Ornithology 1990, a non-credit class, will be offered by Dr. John A Arnold in his usual entertaining fashion. This is an excellent chance to review your skills at bird identification and counting large flocks a birds in preparation for Christmas Bird Counts. Jack suggests bringing binoculars and a pencil. And perhaps also an eraser?

December 16, Sunday - Santa Rosa Christmas Count

It is not too late to sign up for the Santa Rosa CBC. You may either return the notice from Ruth Rudesill that was sent with the November Kite Tales, or phone her at 833-6026.

The Potluck Dinner and Compilation will be at the Wikiup Greens Clubhouse. Take Hwy. 101 north of Santa Rosa, exit at River Road, proceed right to Old Redwood Hwy. (first signal), left about 1 mile to just across bridge over Mark West Creek, right on Wikiup Drive to Las Casitas (2 houses past golf course on right), right on Las Casitas, then immediate left after short block. The Clubhouse is on the corner on the right. Please park in parking bays on left side of the street

LOOKING AHEAD

The Christmas Count takes the place of the monthly field trip in December. Dick Ashford will lead a trip to Bolinas Lagoon on January 12th, so be sure to mark that date on your calendar.

AREA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

December 15, Saturday...	Point Reyes.....	PRBO.....	(415)868-1221
December 16, Sunday.....	Santa Rosa.....	Ruth Rudesill.....	833-6026
December 17, Monday.....	Benecia.....	Robin Leong.....	643-1287
December 29, Saturday...	Southern Marin...	Diane Sierra..	(415)654-8124
December 30, Sunday.....	Western Sonoma...	Betty Burrridge.....	527-0225
January 1, Tuesday.....	Angwin.....	Bill Grummer.....	942-4575

TELEPHONE WHEEL

The time has come to update the Telephone Wheel. Those who are already on the list will be continued unless they ask to be dropped. Others who wish to sign up, please phone Bob Rains, 528-6785.

Along with the advantages of this service is the responsibility of forwarding the message so that all who are at home at the time will be advised of the sighting.

DEADLINE: December 26th for January Kite Tales.

The Wood Stork is a rare post-breeding migrant in Northern California, and had never been seen in Sonoma County until this fall. One was sighted in the Delta in October, and Jean Richmond reported seeing it at Seven Mile Slough, Sacramento County, on October 26th. On October 30th, Stephen Brown, an employee of the Santa Rosa Water Reclamation Department, noticed a very strange-looking bird among the herons and egrets at the Brown Farm pond on Llano Road. Luckily, that very same day, John McDonagh, Avis Anderson, Betty Groce, and Jack Troutfetter were there compiling a list of the birds at the city's sewer ponds. Avis spotted the bird, and Betty identified it. That afternoon, John reported the sighting to Bob Rains, who activated the telephone wheel. Don Johnston took the first Sonoma County photograph of the bird that day. About a dozen of our members saw the Stork at the pond on October 30th and November 1st. It then left the pond, but Dan Nelson found the bird few days later at the Laguna de Santa Rosa behind the Sebastopol Community Center. It has been seen by many birders along the Laguna above and below Highway 12, with the last reported sighting on November 25th.



Wood Stork
Don Johnston

FIELD TRIP REPORT

Bodega Bay and Sebastopol - November 10

On a calm, warm, fall day at the Coast, thirteen birders, led by Dan Nelson and Ruth Rudesill, enjoyed 108 species. The bird of the day was the Wood Stork, found near the Community Center in Sebastopol. There were 2 male Eurasian Wigeons at Bodega Bay, and a Ring-necked Duck that was appeared to be a hybrid. Four Alcids species were seen with an unusually high number of Cassin's Auklets, eight, and two Ancient Murrelets. Species seen only on the Sebastopol extension are preceded by an asterisk in the following list.

Red-throated Loon	White-winged Scoter	Dunlin	Bewick's Wren
Common Loon	Common Goldeneye	Dowitcher sp.	House Wren
Pied-billed Grebe	Bufflehead	Red-necked Phalarope	Winter Wren
Horned Grebe	Ruddy Duck	Red Phalarope	Marsh Wren
Eared Grebe	Turkey Vulture	Bonaparte's Gull	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Western Grebe	Osprey	Heermann's Gull	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Clark's Grebe	Black-shouldered Kite	Mew Gull	Western Bluebird
Am. White Pelican	Northern Harrier	Ring-billed Gull	Hermit Thrush
Brown Pelican	Sharp-shinned Hawk	California Gull	*American Robin
Double-cr. Cormorant	Red-tailed Hawk	Western Gull	American Pipit
Brandt's Cormorant	California Quail	Glaucous-winged Gull	*Cedar Waxwing
Pelagic Cormorant	Virginia Rail	Forster's Tern	*European Starling
Great Blue Heron	American Coot	Common Murre	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Great Egret	Black-bellied Plover	Pigeon Guillemot	Townsend's Warbler
Snowy Egret	Semipalmated Plover	Ancient Murrelet	Common Yellowthroat
Bl.-cr. Night-heron	Killdeer	Cassin's Auklet	California Towhee
*Wood Stork	Am. Bl. Oystercatcher	Band-tailed Pigeon	Savannah Sparrow
Wood Duck	Willet	Mourning Dove	Fox Sparrow
Green-winged Teal	Wandering Tattler	Anna's Hummingbird	Song Sparrow
Mallard	Spotted Sandpiper	Downy Woodpecker	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Northern Shoveler	Marbled Godwit	Northern Flicker	White-crowned Sparrow
Gadwall	Ruddy Turnstone	Black Phoebe	Dark-eyed Junco
Eurasian Wigeon	Black Turnstone	Scrub Jay	Red-winged Blackbird
American Wigeon	Surfbird	Common Raven	Brewer's Blackbird
Ring-necked Duck hy.	Sanderling	Chestnut-b. Chickadee	House Finch
Greater Scaup	Western Sandpiper	Bushtit	American Goldfinch
Surf Scoter	Least Sandpiper	Brown Creeper	House Sparrow

OBSERVATIONS

-3-

How common are White-throated Sparrows? The Northern California Rare Bird Tape often reports sightings of this species in the Bay Area. This month, White-throated Sparrows are regular yard birds at five homes of members of RROS. Several have also reported Fox Sparrows in their yards.

Water and Shorebirds

Northern Fulmar 11/23, 4 dead on beach, Manchester Beach SP (DT).
Townsend's Shearwater 10/28, Cordell Bank (JS). **American Bittern** 11/10, Bolinas Sewer Pond (DA) - 11/10, McKerricher SP (DT). **Cattle Egret** 11/23, Manchester area (DT). **Canada Goose minima** 11/4, McKerricher SP (DT). **Wood Duck** 11/10, Five Brooks (DA). **Eurasian Wigeon** 10/24, Pine Gulch Creek (BDP). **Harlequin Duck** 11/4, 12 at Sea Ranch (BB). **Hooded Merganser** 11/2, Pudding Creek, Fort Bragg (DT) - 11/4, Bodega Bay (DW). **Sandhill Crane** 11/7, 75 at Skaggs Island (DA). **Lesser Golden Plover fulva** 11/11, McKerricher SP (DT). **Red Phalarope** 10/31-11/4, many along Mendocino Coast (DT) - 11/4, Sea Ranch (DW). **Bonaparte's Gull** 11/24, Bodega Bay (AA). **Black-legged Kittiwake** 11/24, Bodega Bay (AA). **Ancient Murrelet** 11/10, McKerricher SP (DT). **Cassin's Auklet** 11/4, many along Mendocino Coast (DT). **Rhinoceros Auklet** 11/4, Mendocino Coast (DT).

Raptors

Sharp-shinned Hawk 11/21, yard, Santa Rosa (JM). **Red-tailed Hawk melanistic** 11/4, Bodega Bay (RR). **Ferruginous Hawk** 11/8, Tomales Bay (BG) - 11/23, Manchester area (DT). **Rough-legged Hawk** 11/8, Tomales Bay (BG) - 11/10, McKerricher SP (DT). **Merlin** 11/4, Bodega Bay (RR). **Peregrine Falcon** 11/10, Bolinas Lagoon - 11/24, Owl Canyon (DA). **Pygmy Owl** 11/18, top of Mt. St. Helena (BDP).

Other Non-passerines

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 11/10, Pine Gulch Creek (DA) - 11/24, (BDP,SP).

Passerines

Canyon Wren 11/18, Mt. St. Helena (BDP). **Townsend's Solitaire** 11/18, Mt. St. Helena (BDP). **Bendire's Thrasher** 11/23, Lodi (DA). **Warbling Vireo** 11/10, Pine Gulch Creek (DA). **Orange-crowned Warbler** 10/22, Laguna, Sebastopol (BDP) - 10/24, Diekmann's Store, Bodega Bay (DA). **Black-throated Gray Warbler** 10/23, Laguna, Sebastopol (BDP). **Townsend's Warbler** 10/17, Diekmann's Store, Bodega Bay (DA) - 11/26, Shiloh Regional Park (B&BR). **Palm Warbler** 11/3, Bodega Bay (DE). **MacGillivray's Warbler** 11/17, Diekmann's Store, Bodega Bay (DA). **Red Crossbill** 10/29, 20 at Manchester Beach - 11/10, 30 at McKerricher SP (DT). **Evening Grosbeak** 11/22, Laguna, Sebastopol (BDP)

Observers

Avis Anderson, Jack Arnold, Dick Ashford, Betty Burrige, Doug Ellis, Betty Groce, John McDonagh, Mike Parmeter, Sally Parmeter, Bob and Bertha Rains, Ruth Rudesill, Jean Smith, Dorothy Tobkin, Dan Wilson.

NATURALIST CLASS

John Klobas is offering 2 classes on the Pacific Gray Whale in January.
The Natural History of the Pacific Gray Whale
January 10 and 12: Thursday, 7 - 10 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
ENSP eNC 24031-891; \$30; Darwin 221
Whale Watching by Boat
January 13: Sunday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
ENSP eNC 24042-891; \$45; Bodega Bay
For both classes and 1 unit of credit: \$102
For further information and registration, SSU Extended Education: phone 664-2394.

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 - Benjamin Parmeter, 2500 Emerson St. Napa 94558.....255-6757
Vice-president - Wayne Tillay, 160 Cold Springs Rd., Angwin 94508.....965-2978
Secretary - Jean Smith, 519 Sunnyvale, Healdsburg 95448.....433-2542
Treasurer - Clarence Wolcott, 4455 Dry Creek Rd., Healdsburg 95448.....433-1351

CHAIRMEN

Field Trips - Dan Nelson, 400 Sunnyslope Ave., Petaluma 94952.....762-6152
 Ruth Rudesill, P. O. Box 371, Kenwood 95452.....833-6026
Observations - Bob Rains, 450-A Las Casitas, Santa Rosa 95403.....528-6785
Social - Betty Burrige, 1653 Arroyo Sierra, Santa Rosa 95404.....527-0225
Christmas Count - Doug Ellis, PO Box 155, Eldridge 95431.....539-3443
 Ruth Rudesill, P. O. Box 371, Kenwood 95452.....833-6026
Kite Tales - Bertha Rains, 450-A Las Casitas, Santa Rosa 95403.....528-6785

MEMBERSHIP DUES RRROS dues are \$10 for Family, \$7.50 for Individual, \$3 for Student. Memberships cover the period from July 1990 to June 1991 and include a subscription to Kite Tales. Checks should be made out to RRROS and sent to Clarence Wolcott, Treasurer, at 4455 Dry Creek Rd., Healdsburg 95448.

Bertha L. Rains
450A Las Casitas
Santa Rosa CA 95403

