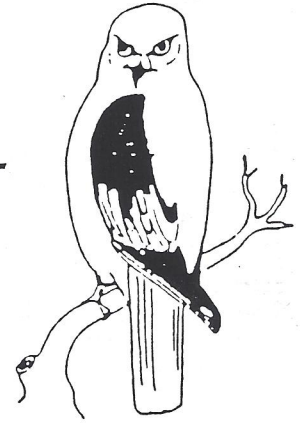


# Kite Tales



APRIL 1991

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
Vol. 15, No. 8

Sonoma County

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

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

Birds of the Pribiloffs is the title of David Wimpheimer's program for the April meeting. The Pribiloffs, islands off Alaska, are considered prime birding sites as millions of birds nest there - puffins, cormorants, kittiwakes, fulmars, auklets and murre. The islands also support seals and sea lions, and 70% of the northern fur seals breed there. David Wimpheimer is a naturalist from Marin County; he has compiled the Point Reyes Christmas Bird Count for the past three years.

April 6, Saturday - Field Trip to King Ridge Road

**Please note early date: April 6 - before general meeting**

Time: 7:30 a.m.

Meeting Place: Junction  
of Hwy 116 and  
Cazadero Rd.,  
just beyond the  
Austin Creek  
Bridge

In the past, the leaders of this trip have been very successful in finding such birds as American Dipper, Blue Grouse, and Northern Pygmy Owl. This is a good time for early migrants, and higher on King Ridge Road, raptors. Please consider carpooling as the road is narrow without shoulder much of the way. Be sure to bring lunch and drinks as there are no snack bars along the way.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Deyea Harper, Jack Arnold, and Ruth Rudesill, presented the report of the Nominating Committee at the March meeting. Election of officers for the 1991-92 year will be at held the April meeting at which time nominations from the floor may be made..

President: Wayne Tillay  
Vice-president: David Hofmann  
Secretary: Jean Smith  
Treasurer: Clarence Wolcott

Field Trips: Ruth Rudesill  
Observations: Avis Anderson  
Social: Betty Burridge  
Christmas Count: Doug Ellis  
Ruth Rudesill

Wayne Tillay welcomes suggestions or offers of Kite Tales Editor.

**DEADLINE:** April 22 is the deadline for the May Kite Tales.

### MARCH FIELD TRIP REPORT

Seven hardy birders worked for their 50 species on this Bodega Bay and Salmon Creek Owling trip. Windy, rainy weather in the afternoon hindered the group at Bodega Bay. They finally gave up when they saw a few snowflakes! They did see 4 Red-throated Loons in the channel and managed to spot a Sora. Even though the afternoon birders left, our faithful leader, Doug Ellis, and Ruth Rudesill were at Salmon Creek for evening owling and were joined by John Klobas. In an hour they found the 3 species listed below and were sure that they heard at least 3 Spotted Owls.

The 50 species seen were:

Red-throated Loon	Brant	American Coot	Heermann's Gull
Pacific Loon	Mallard	Black-bellied Plover	Mew Gull
Common Loon	Scaup sp.	Semipalmated Plover	Ring-billed Gull
Pied-billed Grebe	Surf Scoter	Killdeer	Herring Gull
<b>Red-necked Grebe</b>	White-winged Scoter	Willet	Western Gull
Clark's Grebe	Common Goldeneye	Marbled Godwit	Glaucous-winged Gull
Am. White Pelican	Bufflehead	Black Turnstone	<b>Great Horned Owl</b>
Double-cr. Cormorant	Red-breasted Merganser	Surfbird	<b>Spotted Owl</b>
Brandt's Cormorant	Ruddy Duck	Sanderling	<b>Northern Saw-whet Owl</b>
Great Blue Heron	Osprey	Western Sandpiper	Black Phoebe
Great Egret	Northern Harrier	Least Sandpiper	Red-winged Blackbird
Snowy Egret	Red-shouldered Hawk	Dowitcher sp.	Brewer's Blackbird
Black-cr. Night-heron	<b>Sora</b>		

Brave Participants: Avis Anderson, Dick Ashford, Doug Ellis, David Hofmann, John Klobas, Ruth Rudesill, Cindy Young.

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We now have 74 memberships, and 101 members. Most of us live in the North Bay counties, and many others within 80 miles of Rohnert Park. We are pleased to have several members who have moved to more distant parts and continue their interest in Sonoma County birds and birders. Ray and Nell McDuffey, charter members, now live in Portland, Oregon. Mark Delwiche, president 1988-89, moved to Las Vegas, New Mexico. Carmen Patterson of Ballwin, Missouri, kindly sent a copy of the Kite Tales to her friend Eugenia Larson of Hayward, who came to the January field trip and then joined. Laurence Binford of Glencoe, Illinois, is sorely missed at Christmas Count time. He would stake out 3 or 4 warblers in his favorite haunts - Bassignani's nursery and the Laguna - and do a bit of poaching to pick up those few extra species for the count each year.

Several new members have joined this year, and while we do not welcome each one by name in the Kite Tales, their interest and participation is greatly appreciated.

OBSERVATIONS

15-8

Feeder Birds

This winter unusual numbers of birds and species have been reported at yard feeders. Sharp-shinned Hawks have been observed harrassing smaller birds with at least one Quail taken, and a Junco near miss. A Cooper's Hawk made daring swoops through narrow openings in shrubbery at one feeder. A Peregrine Falcon visited at another.

A Lincoln's Sparrow has been at one feeder, and Fox Sparrows and White-throated Sparrows have been frequent visitors at feeders of five members. While there has been a marked decrease in hummingbirds, especially Anna's, Barbara Murray in Oakmont recently had 4 Allen's and 5 Anna's at one time in the evening.

A Northern Oriole at Karen Nagel's feeder on March 10th was 13 days ahead of the earliest arrival date shown in Birds of Sonoma County. Betty Groce in Oakmont has had Pine Siskins coming regularly with 110 at one time.

Water and Shorebirds

**Red-necked Grebe** 3/9, McKerricher State Park (DT) - 3/16, 4 at Bodega Bay (DA). **Clark's Grebe** 3/22, Mare Island (DA). **Emperor Goose** 2/24, Point Reyes (CY) - 3/10, Pt. Reyes (DN). **Brant** 3/16, 200 at Bodega Head (DA) - 3/22, 26 at Bodega Head (DE). **Eurasian Wigeon** 3/19, 2 in Bodega Farm Pond (RM). **Oldsquaw** 3/8, Bodega Head (DE) - 3/9, mouth of Russian River (WT) - 3/19, mouth, Russian River (RM). **Barrow's Goldeneye** 3/16, Mouth, Russian River (WT). **Hooded Merganser** 3/7, Fountain Grove Pond (JM) - 3/16, Caspar (DT). **Common Merganser** 3/27, Lake Sonoma (WN). **Spotted Sandpiper** 3/22, Mare Island (DA). **Surfbird** 3/16, Bodega Head (DA). **Common Snipe** 3/13, 30, Stage Gulch Rd. (RR). **Cassin's Auklet** 3/8, Bodega Head (DE).

Raptors

**Osprey** 3/22, Mare Island (DA) - 3/27, Foothill Regional Park, display diving (JM). **Swainson's Hawk** many wintering near Venice Island in Delta (JA,CY). **Ferruginous Hawk** 2/28, 5 on Sonoma Mt. Rd.(CT). **Golden Eagle** 3/21, 2 at Warm Springs Dam (JM,WN). **Merlin** 3/7, Tomales - 3/27, Lake Sonoma Visitor Center (JM). **Peregrine Falcon** 3/7, Cypress Gove (JM) - 3/13, Oakmont (BG). **Northern Pygmy Owl** 2/13, McKerricher SP (DT). **Spotted Owl** 3/8, Salmon Creek Rd. (DE). **Northern Saw-whet Owl** 3/8, Salmon Creek Rd. (DE).

Other Non-Passerines

**Ring-necked Pheasant** 2/21, Cost Plus Lawn, Santa Rosa Ave. (DW). **Common Poorwill** 2/27, Salmon Creek Rd. (BB). **Rufous Hummingbird** 3/25, Oakmont (BG).

Passerines

**Cedar Waxwings** 3/18, over 200, Kenwood (RR). **Harris Sparrow** 3/20, Pine Flat Reservoir (DN). **Northern Oriole** 3/10, Sonoma (KN). **Pine Siskin** 3/26, 110 at Oakmont (BG). **Evening Grosbeak** 3/19, 12 in yard, Hearn Ave., Santa Rosa (RM).

Observers

Jack Arnold, Dick Ashford, Betty Burr ridge, Doug Ellis, Betty Groce, John McDonagh, Richard Merriss, Dan Nelson, Wini Nelson, Ruth Rudesill, Wayne Tillay, Dorothy Tobkin, Chris Traub, Dan Wilson, Cindy Young.

**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** RROS 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 RROS and sent to Clarence Wolcott, Treasurer, at 4455 Dry Creek Rd., Healdsburg 95448.

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

