

# Kite Tales



REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
Volume 27, No. 4

DECEMBER 1992

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## COMING ATTRACTIONS

General Meeting: Thurs. December 10, 1991  
at 7:30 PM

Place: Darwin Hall, Sonoma State University

Time: 7:30 PM

Program: Dr. Jack Arnold will again test abilities to identify birds for the Christmas Count. Bring your binoculars and a pencil, and study up on fall/winter, juvenile and female plumaged birds. The January meeting will feature Don Nelson and his videos of birds.

**Field Trip:** The December field trip is the Christmas Bird Count scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 20. Contact Ruth Rudesill or Doug Ellis if you have not yet signed up for participation. Call Ruth at 833-6026 or Doug at 539-3443 (evenings only).

**Field Trip:** The January field trip is planned for **January 9th**. Dick Ashford will lead to the **Bolinas Lagoon** area of Marin Co. He does the Christmas Count in this area and will be able to show us the interesting birds that were seen. We will meet in the parking pull-out in front of Audubon Canyon Ranch. Wear warm clothes and bring a lunch and water-proof boots. This trip has become an annual event and something rare or unusual is always seen. For questions phone Ruth at 833-6026 (or Dick at 996-7508).

**Field Trip:** Please reserve President's Day weekend, Friday, Feb 12 -Monday, Feb 15 for a trip to Klamath Falls/Tule Lake. Some will remember the great birds seen last year in this area. Especially looked for will be wintering raptors (especially Bald Eagles), water fowl and, hopefully, rare visitors from the North. Further details in the Jan/Feb Kite Tales

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Report of **field trip** on Sunday, November 15, 1992. The field trip began with owling on Willow Creek Road at 4:30 AM until sunup. After breakfast at Occidental, the group journeyed to Bodega Bay. At 12:15 they birded Willow Creek Rd on the Bridgehaven side to Occidental. At 3:30 PM they arrived at Santa Rosa Creek at Willowside Rd to look for the Tri-colored Heron which provided them with a fly-over at 4:45, presumably going to the Egret Roost on Marlowe at Guerneville Rd where the field trip ended at 5:30 PM. Sixteen observers were at Occidental at 4:30AM eager to owl. Doug Ellis called in a Western Screech Owl to be seen by all, and they also heard Spotted Owl, Northern Pygmy Owl, Saw-whet Owl and Great Horned Owl. A Barn Owl was later seen at a roost.

Observers: Mike Blouin, Betty Burridge, Beth Comtis, Shira & Anthony Cortigiani, Doug Ellis, Betty Groce, David Hofmann, Terry Law, John McDonagh, Bob, Bertha & Miles Rains, Ruth Rudesill, Alan Wight and Cindy Young, Nancy Conzett joined the group later at Bodega Bay.

The weather was nearly perfect for owling: cold, still, partly cloudy and with a 3/4 moon. Later the day was sunny and cool. **127 species** were recorded: Pacific Loon, Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Clark's Grebe, Sooty Shearwater, Brown Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Brandt's Cormorant, Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Tricolored Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Canada Goose, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Northern Shoveler, Eurasian Wigeon, American Wigeon, Scaup (sp), Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Bufflehead, (continued)

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS, con't.

Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Black-shouldered Kite, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, Ring-necked Pheasant, California Quail, Virginia Rail, American Coot, Black-bellied Plover, Killdeer, Black Oystercatcher, Greater Yellowlegs, Willet, Wandering Tattler, Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Black Turnstone, Surf-bird, Sanderling, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Dowitcher (sp), Common Snipe, Heermann's Gull, Mew Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Western Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Elegant Tern, Forster's Tern, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Ancient Murrelet, Rock Dove, Band-tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Common Barn-Owl, Western Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Spotted Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Black Phoebe, Steller's Jay, Scrub Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Bushtit, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Bewick's Wren, Winter Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Western Bluebird, American Robin, Varied Thrush, Wren-tit, Northern Mockingbird, American Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, European Starling, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Rufous-sided Towhee, California Towhee, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Evening Grosbeak, House Sparrow.

Report of **field trip** on Friday, November 27 (brief). Six RROS birders: Dick Ashford, Ted Eliot, David Hofmann, Ruth Rudesill, Wayne Tillay and Alan Wight; joined a group from Davis (and various other places) for an annual trip that includes: the area south of El Macero, Nimbus Dam, Bass Lake, the White Rock area and the Woodbridge Ecological Reserve. Although no extreme rarities were observed, about 80 species of birds were noted. 12 species of raptors were recorded, including Rough-legged Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Golden Eagle (doing a barrel roll when dive bombed by a Red-tail), Prairie Falcon and Merlin. Also of note were numbers of Lewis' Woodpeckers. However, the highlight of the day, thrilling all who were brave enough to endure the long (both in distance and time) trip, were thousands of Sandhill Cranes flying into and around the Woodbridge Ecological area just after sunset. SPECTACULAR!!!

## MISCELLANEOUS

If you wish to join the 32nd Santa Rosa Christmas Count (the 93rd time a CBC has ever been held), this will be another reminder. It will be held on Sunday, December 20. Call Ruth at 833-6026 or Doug at 539-3443 (evenings) if you have not done so already. The count-down potluck will be at Wikiup Greens Clubhouse, open at 4:30 PM with dinner at 6:00 and the tally at 7:00.

The Western Sonoma CBC will be held on January 3. This count is under the direction of RROS members Betty Burridge and Deyea Harper. For information call 527-0225 or 542-1542.

Mike Parmeter was visiting his new Grandson in Minnesota over the Thanksgiving holiday (and also his daughter and son-in-law) when he heard about four Hawk-owls that were near enough for a chase. So he was rewarded with ABA lifter #671 (his world list tops 3000). Good bird, Mike, Dave and I are envious. Dave says he will wait until he can find one in California. Good luck!!

The Field Trips Chairpersons, Cindy Young and Ruth Rudesill are planning a weekend trip for late March to Southern California. The Taft/Grapevine area will be the focus of a search for LeConte's Thrasher and other good birds.

This is not a Hawk-owl.



## OBSERVATIONS, OCTOBER 26 TO NOVEMBER 22

SPECIES NAME	DATE	LOCATION, COUNTY	DETAILS	OBSERVERS
Red-necked Grebe	11/09	Bodega Bay, Sonoma Co	Single bird	Wayne Tillay
Northern Fulmar	11/22	Lighthouse, Pt Reyes, Marin	Two birds	Ruth Rudesill
American White Pelican	11/29	Sugarloaf SP, Sonoma	2 birds, flyover	D Hofmann, R Rudesill
American Bittern	11/19	Santa Rosa Cr, Willowside, Son.	Single bird	JT, JS, DL
<b>Tricolored Heron</b>	11/09	Santa Rosa Cr, Willowside, Son.	1st Co record, to 11/19	Dave Hofmann, MOB
Cattle Egret	11/22	SR Creek, Willowside Rd, Son.	5 birds	John McDonagh
Tundra Swan	11/05	10-Mile River, Mendocino Co	Single bird to 11/13	Dorothy Tobkin
Canada Goose (minima)	11/05	MacKerricher SP, Mendocino Co	Present entire period	Dorothy Tobkin
Wood Duck	11/08	SR Creek, Willowside Rd, Son.	6 birds	BD Parmeter
Eurasian Wigeon	11/01	Doran Park, Sonoma Co.	Single bird, also 11/4	C Young, J McDonagh
	11/04	Salmon Creek, Sonoma Co	Single bird	Betty Groce & others
Harlequin Duck	11/05	MacKerricher SP, Mendocino Co	Single female	Dorothy Tobkin
Black Scoter	11/22	Fish Docks, Pt Reyes, Marin Co	12 birds (M & F)	Ruth Rudesill
Hooded Merganser	11/05	Caspar Pond, Mendocino Co	Up to 16 birds, all month	Dorothy Tobkin
Common Merganser	11/05	L Suttentfield, Sonoma Co	30 birds	Cindy Young
Golden Eagle	10/29	Keys Creek, Marin Co	Single bird	John McDonagh
Merlin	11/04	Mendocino Headlands	Single bird	Dorothy Tobkin
	11/05	MacKerricher SP, Mendocino	1 bird, also 11/13, 11/17	Dorothy Tobkin
Peregrine Falcon	11/04	Doran Park, Sonoma Co	Single male	John McDonagh
	11/17	MacKerricher SP, Mendocino Co	Single bird	Dorothy Tobkin
Sandhill Crane	11/19	Hwy 12 E of Sebastopol, Sonoma	Single bird, also 11/21	Bob Evans, J McDonagh
Lesser Golden-Plover	10/29	Drakes Corners, Pt Reyes, Marin	Both races	John McDonagh
	11/21	MacKerricher SP, Mendocino Co	Single bird, fulva	Dorothy Tobkin
<b>Eurasian Dotterel</b>	10/29	Drakes Corners, Pt Reyes, Marin	Single bird	John McDonagh
Lesser Yellowlegs	11/01	Navarro Beach, Mendocino Co	Single bird	Dorothy Tobkin
<b>Bar-tailed Godwit</b>	10/26	Spud Pt, Bodega Bay, Sonoma Co	Single bird	B Gumtow, E Hubbard
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	10/27	Doran Park, Sonoma Co	Single bird	D Hofmann, MOB
Bonaparte's Gull	11/01	Salmon Cr, Sonoma Co	1 bird, 8 on 11/21	CY, BB, AA
Marbled Murrelet	11/09	Bodega Head, Sonoma Co	2 birds	Wayne Tillay
Ancient Murrelet	11/04	Mendocino Bay, Mendocino Co	±10 birds	Dorothy Tobkin
	11/09	Bodega Head, Sonoma Co	±5 birds	Wayne Tillay
Eastern Phoebe	10/27	Owl Cyn, Bodega Bay, Sonoma	1 bird, also 10/28	D Ellis, D Nelson, et al
Canyon Wren	11/14	Mt St Helena, Napa Co	Single bird	Alan Wight
Townsend's Solitaire	11/14	Mt St Helena, Napa Co	2 birds	Alan Wight
Lark Bunting	11/01	Bay Flat Rd, Bodega Bay, Sonoma	Single bird	DH, DY, et al
White-throated Sparrow	10/30	Yard, Santa Rosa, Sonoma Co	One tan striped form	Jack Troutfetter
	11/19	SR Creek, Willowside Rd, Son.	Single bird	Jack Troutfetter, et al
Lapland Longspur	11/19	Hwy 12, E of Sebastopol, Sonoma		Bob Evans
Evening Grosbeak	11/07	SR Creek, Willowside Rd, Son.	10-20 birds, to 11/19	D Hofmann, MOB

Observers: Avis Anderson, Betty Burrige, Doug Ellis, Bob Evans, Betty Groce, Barbara Gumtow, David Hofman, Ebba Hubbard, Don Lane, John McDonagh, Dan Nelson, Benjamin D Parmeter, Ruth Rudesill, Jim Smith, Wayne Tillay, Dorothy Tobkin, Jack Troutfetter, Alan Wight, Cindy Young

**REDWOOD REGIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY** was organized in 1962 "to encourage the study and conservation of birds, other wildlife, and their natural habitat." Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, September through May. Regular general meetings are held at 7:30PM in Room 221 Darwin Hall, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, California.

**1992-93 Officers**

President: David Hofmann, 2021 Pioneer Way #47, Santa Rosa CA 95403 ..... 546-0325  
Vice-president: Jon Winter, 5331 El Mercado, Santa Rosa CA 95403 ..... 528-7488  
Secretary: Olive Corey, 422 Ridgeway, Santa Rosa CA 95401 ..... 542-8429  
Treasurer: Jean Smith, 519 Sunnyvale, Healdsburg CA 95448 ..... 433-2542

**1992-93 Chairpersons**

Field Trips: Cynthia Young, 7 Conifer Square, Rohnert Park, CA 94928. .... 585-8826  
              Ruth Rudesill, PO Box 371, Kenwood CA 95452 ..... 833-6026  
Observations: Avis Anderson, 116 Oak Island Place, Santa Rosa, CA 95405 ... 539-0470  
Social: Betty Burrige, 1653 Arroyo Sierra, Santa Rosa, CA 95404 ..... 527-0225  
Christmas Count: Doug Ellis, PO Box 155, Eldridge, CA 95452 ..... 539-3443  
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