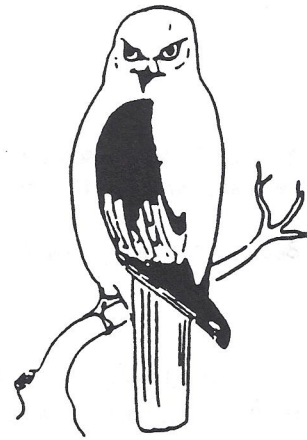


# Kite Tales

## Redwood Region Ornithological Society

Volume 28, Number 2

October 1993



### Coming Attractions

**General Meeting.** October 14, 1993 - Thursday, 7:30 PM at Room 221, Darwin Hall, Sonoma State University. The program will be a slide and audio presentation on the Laguna de Santa Rosa. The presentation was created by Peeter Vilms and will be put on by Richard Merriss.

**Field Trip to Bodega Harbor.** Saturday, October 9. Meet at the rail ponds at the north end of Bodega Harbor at 8:00 AM. We will look for fall migrants around the harbor. Bring a lunch. Leader is Dan Nelson. For further information, call Dan at 763-2754.

**Pelagic Trip from Monterey.** Sunday, October 10. Napa-Solano Audubon Society is putting on this pelagic trip. Cost is only \$30. Contact Ruth Rudesill at 833-6026 to sign up. Check should be made payable to Napa-Solano Audubon Society.

### Membership Dues

If you have not yet paid your membership dues for the 1993-94 year, please do so soon. Dues are \$15 per family or \$8 per individual per year. Student dues are \$3. Send your check to the RROS treasurer, Jean Smith, 519 Sunnyvale, Healdsburg, CA 95448, or better, bring it to the first general meeting (on October 14) at Darwin Hall, Sonoma State University. Make checks payable to RROS.

### Sonoma County Breeding Bird Atlas

The Sonoma County Breeding Bird Atlas still lives. Work is now progressing on species accounts. Many RROS members are acting as authors, and have already received instructions and assignments for writing accounts for selected birds.

Anyone feel left out? Contact Betty and she will provide you with material to work with to write these accounts.

Also needed are confirmed records of the following birds breeding in Sonoma County from any year, not just our atlas period 1986-91. The birds are: Blue-winged Teal, American Wigeon, Blue Grouse, Black Rail, Clapper Rail, Band-tailed Pigeon, Common Nighthawk, Common Poorwill, Bank Swallow, Rock Wren, Canyon Wren, MacGillivray's Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, American Bittern, Sora, Tufted Puffin, Rhinoceros Auklet, Nashville Warbler, Black-chinned Sparrow, Red Crossbill, Greater Roadrunner, Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl.

The atlas also needs secretarial help. Specifically someone with an IBM compatible computer at home (and Word Perfect), to enter the species accounts onto disks. The pay scale is humiliating, but the appreciation of the Atlas Committee will be overwhelming.

Incidentally, last, but certainly not least, The Marin County BBA is now available from Bushtit Books, Box 233, Bolinas, CA 94924. Price plus tax is \$26.76. (Bob and Bertha Rains will pick them up for you.) Or

add \$3.50 for postage and handling. This is a monumental volume which shall certainly become a standard reference work on the breeding status of Marin (and Sonoma) County birds.

Betty Burrige, Sonoma County BBA Coordinator, 527-0225

### Miscellaneous

Phone wheel saga: On Friday 9/23, Chris Wood found a Prairie Warbler on West Side Road at Bodega Harbor in the same area as the Lucy's Warbler that was seen earlier this year. Somehow at the end of the phone wheel chain the Prairie Warbler became a Palm Warbler that Ruth Rudesill had found! The funny part of this story is that on Saturday several birders went to try to relocate the Prairie Warbler and instead found a Palm Warbler! But the real credit for the Prairie Warbler goes to Chris. Our thanks for his call to our phone wheel.

## Field Trip Reports

### Vaux's Swift Fly-In in Healdsburg, September 10, 1993.

Several people showed up for a nice evening at Rio Lindo Academy in Healdsburg. Approximately 2000 Vaux's Swifts were seen flying in all directions and then funneling into a large chimney to roost for the night. This is an annual occurrence that should not be missed! A Common Barn-Owl made a brief appearance at dusk. Participants were Mary Finn, Betty and Jack Groce, Louise and Don Johnston, Bill McCausland, Linda Petrulias, Katharine and Richard Stein, Alan Wight, and Cindy Young.

### Point Reyes, September 18, 1993.

It was a foggy morning that turned into a breezy sunny day. A total of 73 birds were observed, including 11 different species of warblers! And almost all the warblers were well seen, especially the Black-and-white, Tennessee, and Palm Warblers. A total of 18 people attended the trip: Avis Anderson, Dick Ashford, Carol Brant, Mary Finn, Betty Groce, Barb Guntow, David Hofmann, Louise and Don Johnston, Bill Lenarz, Mike Parmeter, Bill Payne, Bob and Bertha Rains, Ruth Rudesill, Sandy Settle, Alan Wight, Cindy Young.

Pacific Loon	Forster's Tern	Tennessee Warbler
Common Loon	Common Murre	Orange-crowned Warbler
Horned Grebe	Rock Dove	Yellow Warbler
Brown Pelican	Mourning Dove	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Common Barn-Owl	Black-throated Gray Warbler
Brandt's Cormorant	Great Horned Owl	Townsend's Warbler
Pelagic Cormorant	Anna's Hummingbird	Palm Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Acorn Woodpecker	Blackpoll Warbler
Great Egret	Northern Flicker	Black-and-white Warbler
Mallard	Western Wood-Pewee	Common Yellowthroat
Northern Pintail	Pacific-slope Flycatcher	Wilson's Warbler
Harlequin Duck	Black Phoebe	Western Tanager
Surf Scoter	Barn Swallow	Savannah Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Common Raven	Fox Sparrow
Northern Harrier	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Song Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Brown Creeper	Lincoln's Sparrow
American Kestrel	Rock Wren	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Semipalmated Plover	Bewick's Wren	White-crowned Sparrow
Killdeer	Winter Wren	Red-winged Blackbird
Greater Yellowlegs	Marsh Wren	Tricolored Blackbird
Least Sandpiper	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Brewer's Blackbird
Heermann's Gull	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	House Finch
Ring-billed Gull	Hermit Thrush	American Goldfinch
Western Gull	European Starling	House Sparrow
Elegant Tern		

## RROS Observations, September 1993 (+)

### Northern California

Species	Number	Date	Location	County	Observers	Notes
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	3	8/21	Cordell Bank	MRN	BDP, RR, AW	
Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel	100+	8/21	Cordell Bank	MRN	BDP, RR, AW	
Harlequin Duck	1 female	8/23,9/17	Mackerricher S. P.	MEN	DT	
Golden Eagle	1 adult	8/27	Mendocino N. F.	MEN	DT	
Golden Eagle	1	8/27	Cheney Gulch	SON	JM	
Merlin	1	9/14	Duncan's Landing	SON	DH	
Peregrine Falcon	1	9/26	Fish Docks, Point Reyes	MRN	DH, RR	
Lesser Yellowlegs	1-2	August	Mendocino area	MEN	DT	
Lesser Yellowlegs	1	8/27	Doran Park	SON	JM	
Red Knot	11	9/23	Tom's Point	MRN	JK, JM	
Red Knot	1	8/27	Doran Park	SON	JM	
Baird's Sandpiper	6	7/28+	Mendocino area	MEN	DT	
Pectoral Sandpiper	6	9/9	Mendocino area	MEN	DT	
Pectoral Sandpiper	12+	9/25	Salinas Sewer Ponds	MON	RR, AW	
Stilt Sandpiper	1 juvenile	9/9	Mackerricher S. P.	MEN	DT	first county record
Ruff	1 female	9/12	Coyote Creek	SCL	JM, LP, CY	
Ruff	1 female	9/15	Alviso	SCL	RR	
Pomarine Jaeger	6-8	9/25	Monterey Sea Valley	MNT	RR, AW	
Parasitic Jaeger	3	9/23	Cypress Grove	MRN	JK, JM	
Parasitic Jaeger	4+	9/25	Monterey Sea Valley	MNT	RR, AW	
Long-tailed Jaeger	2	9/25	Monterey Sea Valley	MNT	RR, AW	
South Polar Skua	1-3	9/25	Monterey Sea Valley	MNT	RR, AW	
Sabine's Gull	6	8/23	Cordell Bank	MRN	BDP, RR, AW	
Common Tern	5	9/5	Abbott's Lagoon	MRN	RR, AW	
✓ Arctic Tern	1	8/27	Doran Park	SON	JM	
Arctic Tern	1	9/26	Fish Docks	MRN	DH, BDP, AW	
✓ Black Tern	1	9/1	Carmody Road	SON	DN	
Black Tern	1	9/5	Abbott's Lagoon	MRN	RR, AW	
Thick-billed Murre	1	9/25	Monterey Bay	MNT	RR, AW	
Xantus' Murrelet	1	8/21	Offshore	MRN	RR	
✓ White-winged Dove	1	9/5-9/14	Duncan's Landing	SON	many	
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	1	9/26	Nicasio	MRN	many	
Canyon Wren	1	7/4	Eel River (Dos Rios)	DEN	DT	
✓ Philadelphia Vireo	1	9/16	Bay Flat Road	SON	DN	
Red-eyed Vireo	1	9/20	Gualala	MEN	DE	
✓ Tennessee Warbler	1	9/19	Owl Canyon	SON	DH	
✓ Chestnut-sided Warbler	1	9/5	Owl Canyon	SON	DH	
✓ Prairie Warbler	1	9/24	Westside Road	SON	CW	
Palm Warbler	1	9/15	Garcia River	MEN	DT	
Palm Warbler	2	9/26	Point Reyes	MRN	many	
Black-and-white Warbler	1	9/20	Gualala	MEN	DE	
✓ American Redstart	1-2	9/5-14	Owl Canyon	SON	DH, many	
American Redstart	1 female	7/12	Pudding Creek	MEN	DT	
Northern Waterthrush	1	9/19	Campbell Cove	SON	DN	
Hooded Warbler	1 female	8/22-9/18	Owl Canyon	SON	many	
Indigo Bunting	1	7/4	Eel River (Dos Rios)	MEN	DT	

✓ Indigo Bunting	1	9/9	Willow Creek Road	SON	BB, CW	
Green-tailed Towhee	1	8/27	Anthony Peak	MEN	DT	
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	2	7/4	near Dos Rios	MEN	DT	see below
✓ Clay-colored Sparrow	1	9/16	Owl Canyon	SON	DN	
Black-throated Sparrow	1	9/26	Nunes Ranch, Point Reyes	MRN	many	
Grasshopper Sparrow	4	7/3	Fort Bragg	MEN	DT	
Bobolink	1	9/26	Nunes Ranch, Point Reyes	MRN	many	
Great-tailed Grackle	1	7/16-26	Mackerricher S. P.	MEN	DT	see below
Hooded Oriole	2	7/5	Fort Bragg	MEN	DT	

### Outside Northern California

Species	Number	Date	Location	County	Observers	Notes
Great Black-backed Gull		9/4-10	Washington D. C.		JM, VM	
Lesser Black-backed Gull		9/4-10	Washington D. C.		JM, VM	

### Mammals

Species	Number	Date	Location	County	Observers	Notes
Long-tailed Weasel	1	9/12	Owl Canyon	SON	RR	caught a mouse
Sea Otter	1	9/12	Duncan's Landing	SON	DH	
Wolverine (!!!)	1	September	Glacier N. P., Montana		DA	
Common Dolphin	12	9/25	Monterey Sea Valley	MNT	RR, AW	
Minke Whale	1	9/25	Monterey Bay	MNT	RR, AW	
Blue Whale	7	8/21	Monterey Bay	MNT	BG, CY	
Humpback Whale	7	8/21	Monterey Bay	MNT	BG, CY	

### Notes

Rufous-crowned Sparrow. One young bird was chasing an adult and begging for food. This may be the northernmost breeding evidence in California per Toby.

Great-tailed Grackle. The bird may have been a Common Grackle. Mendocino birders are still debating. This is a first county record either way.

Observers: Dick Ashford, Betty Burridge, Doug Ellis, Betty Groce, David Hofmann, John Kelly, John and Virginia McDonagh, Dan Nelson, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Linda Petrulias, Ruth Rudesill, Dorothy Tobkin, Alan Wight, Chris Wood, Cindy Young.

**REDWOOD REGION 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 7:30 PM in Room 221 Darwin Hall, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, California.

**1993-1994 Officers**

President:	Jon Winter, 5331 El Mercado, Santa Rosa, CA 95403	528-7488
Vice-president:	Richard E. Merriss, 2046 Hearn Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95407	525-8629
Secretary:	Olive Corey, 422 Ridgeway, Santa Rosa, CA 95401	542-8429
Treasurer:	Jean Smith, 519 Sunnyvale, Healdsburg, CA 95448	433-2542

**1993-1994 Chairpersons**

Field Trips:	Cynthia Young, 7 Conifer Square, Rohnert Park, CA 94928	585-8826
Observations:	Ruth Rudesill, P.O. Box 371, Kenwood, CA 95452	833-6026
Social:	Barbara Gumtow, 7915 Bella Vista Dr., Sebastopol, CA 95472	823-7869
Christmas Count:	Doug Ellis, P.O. Box 155, Eldridge, CA 95452	539-3443
Kite Tales:	Alan Wight, 300 6th St. #2, Petaluma, CA 94952	763-8572

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