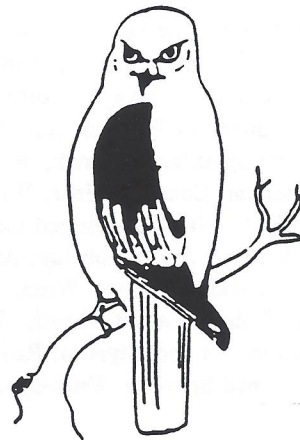


# Kite Tales

Redwood Region Ornithological Society  
Volume 29, Number 4      December 1994



## Coming Attractions

**General Meeting.** Thursday, December 8 - 7:30 PM at Room 221, Darwin Hall, Sonoma State University. Dr. Charles Sibley will present the program entitled "Birds of the World on CD-ROM". Dr. Sibley was a professor at Cornell and Yale Universities and is now Adjunct Professor of Biology at Sonoma State. He was the president of the American Ornithologists' Union from 1986 to 1988. He has coauthored three books: Phylogeny and Classification of Birds, Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the World, and A World Checklist of Birds.

**Field Trips.** The December field trip to Palo Alto Baylands has been cancelled due to schedule conflicts. The next field trip will be in January 1995.

**Santa Rosa Christmas Bird Count.** Sunday, December 18, 1994. This is the 34th annual Santa Rosa Christmas Bird Count and is sponsored by RRROS. If you would like to help count birds on this day, please contact Mike Parmeter at 255-6757 or Doug Ellis at 585-0226.

**Pelagic Trip to Cordell Bank.** Sunday, January 29, 1995. This trip will be out of Bodega Harbor on the New Sea Angler. Laysan Albatross is hoped for. The leaders will be Roger Marlowe, Kevin Gusé, and Keith Hansen. The cost is \$45. To sign up for this trip, call Roger Marlowe at 829-7039 or send him a check at 1434 Cooper Road, Sebastopol, CA 95472.

## Field Trip Reports

### Willow Creek Road, November 12, 1994.

Five eager participants woke up very early to accompany leader Doug Ellis on an owling trip in Willow Creek Canyon. They were rewarded with looks at Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl, and Northern Pygmy-Owl. They also heard Western Screech-Owl and Spotted Owl. After breakfast in Occidental, four other participants joined the trip. The weather was very nice and sunny. We went to Monte Rio, Duncan Mills, Jenner, Bridgehaven, and back up Willow Creek Canyon. Highlights of this portion of the trip included one female Hooded Merganser, an immature Golden Eagle, and Townsend's Warblers. Participants were Avis Anderson, Doug Ellis, Jeff Goodwin, David Hofmann, Jeff Holtzman, Mike Parmeter, Linda Petrulias, Ruth Rudesill, Alan Wight, and Cindy Young.

Other birds encountered during the trip were: Red-throated Loon, Pacific Loon, Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Clark's Grebe, Brown Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Wood Duck, Mallard, American Wigeon, Surf Scoter, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Virginia Rail, American Coot, Killdeer, Willet, Heermann's Gull, Mew Gull, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, Herring Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Western Gull, Band-tailed Pigeon, Anna's Hummingbird, Black Phoebe, Steller's Jay, Scrub Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Pygmy Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Varied Thrush, Wrentit, European Starling, Hutton's Vireo, Yellow-rumped Warbler (both Audubon's and Myrtle), Rufous-sided Towhee, California Towhee, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Brewer's Blackbird, Pine Siskin, and House Sparrow.

Ruth Rudesill

#### Pelagic Trip to Cordell Bank, November 13, 1994.

At least five members of RROS joined Robin Leong and Napa-Solano Audubon (thank you for inviting us!) on this trip to Cordell Bank, Marin County. The trip leaders were Keith Hansen and Roger Marlowe. The seas were a little rough but smoothed out later in the day. We were offshore a long time (7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.). It was clear and cold early and late in the day. Highlights included: Black-footed Albatross, all colors of Northern Fulmar, good views of Short-tailed Shearwater, several gorgeous Black-legged Kittiwakes, Dall's Porpoise, Pacific White-sided Dolphin, close encounters with several Humpback Whales, and a blessed hour with two Blue Whales (one even pooped!). Other birds (and a fish) seen on this trip were: Red-throated Loon, Pacific Loon, Common Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Western Grebe, Clark's Grebe, Pink-footed Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, Brown Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant (out at the Bank), Surf Scoter, Pomarine Jaeger, Bonaparte's Gull, Heermann's Gull, Mew Gull, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, Herring Gull, Thayer's Gull, Western Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Common Murre, Cassin's Auklet, Rhinoceros Auklet, Tufted Puffin (only fly away looks), and Ocean Sunfish (*Mola mola*).

Ruth Rudesill

#### Miscellaneous

Richard Irvin saw life bird #2000 when he saw a Mountain Cacique on a recent month-long trip to Venezuela. Congratulations!!

## RROS Observations, November 1994

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Observers</u>	<u>Notes</u>
✓ Red-necked Grebe	2	11/7	Bodega Harbor jetties	SON	DH	
✓ American Bittern	1	11/20	Cader Lane ponds, Petaluma	SON	AW	
✓ Cattle Egret	2	11/7	High School Road, Sebastopol	SON	JM, DN	
Tundra Swan	3	10/29	MCI Field, Point Reyes	MRN	DH, BDP	
Tundra Swan	2	11/20	Ten Mile River	MEN	DT	
Snow Goose	1	11/14	Sacramento NWR	GLE	DA	Blue form
Ross' Goose	1	11/14	Sacramento NWR	GLE	DA	Blue form
✓ Wood Duck	3	11/11	Hole-in-the-Head	SON	DH, TL	1 male, 2 female
Eurasian Wigeon	3	11/14	Sacramento NWR	GLE	DA	
Redhead	1	11/13	Pudding Creek	MEN	DT	Male
✓ Hooded Merganser	1	11/12	Lower Willow Creek	SON	RROS fieldtrip	Female
Ferruginous Hawk	1	10/12	Manchester area	MEN	DT	
Ferruginous Hawk	1	11/19	Manchester area	MEN	DT	
Ferruginous Hawk	1	11/19	Irish Beach area	MEN	DT	
Golden Eagle	3	10/14	Ukiah-Boonville Road	MEN	DT	Immatures
Golden Eagle	1	11/12	Garcia River area	MEN	DT	Immatures
✓ Merlin	1	11/3	Willowside Road	SON	DH	
✓ Merlin	1	11/11	Doran County Park	SON	NC, DH	
Merlin	1	11/19	Manchester area	MEN	DT	
Merlin	1	11/19	Scott Road	SAC	DH, RR, AW	
✓ Peregrine Falcon	1	11/7	Doran County Park	SON	DH	
Peregrine Falcon	1	11/12	Garcia River area	MEN	DT	
✓ Common Moorhen	3	11/12	Bridgehaven pond	SON	RROS fieldtrip	
American Golden-Plover	1	11/11	Pudding Creek	MEN	DT	
Franklin's Gull	1	11/19	Lodi Sewer Ponds	SJO	many	
Western Screech-Owl	1	10/27	Cazadero	SON	DB	
Burrowing Owl	1	10/22	Manchester Beach	MEN	DT	
✓ Long-eared Owl	1	11/8	Annadel SP	SON	BH	
Short-eared Owl	1	11/19	Chadbourne Road, Fairfield	SOL	DH, RR, AW	
Lewis' Woodpecker	>11	11/19	Scott Road	SAC	DH, RR, AW	
✓ Pacific-slope Flycatcher	1	11/3	Bodega Harbor	SON	DH	Very late
Eastern Phoebe	1	11/19	Davis	YOL	DH, RR, AW	
Mountain Bluebird	2	11/19	Scott Road	SAC	DH, RR, AW	Males
Townsend's Solitaire	1	10/29	Lighthouse, Point Reyes	MRN	DH, BDP	
Phainopepla	3	11/19	Scott Road	SAC	DH, RR, AW	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	1	10/29	Mendoza Ranch, Point Reyes	MRN	DH, BDP	Male
Painted Redstart	1	11/13	Ano Nuevo State Reserve	SMA	DH, BDP	Male
✓ Clay-colored Sparrow	1	10/23-26	Fort Bragg	MEN	DT	Yard bird
✓ Clay-colored Sparrow	1	11/7	Bay Flat Road, Bodega Harbor	SON	DH	
White-throated Sparrow	1	10/26	Kenwood	SON	RR	Home feeder
White-throated Sparrow	1	10/27	Fort Bragg	MEN	DT	Yard bird
White-throated Sparrow	3	10/28	Kenwood	SON	RR	2 tan, 1 white

## RROS Observations, November 1994

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Observers</u>	<u>Notes</u>
White-throated Sparrow	1	10/29	Cazadero	SON	DB	
White-throated Sparrow	1	11/12	Sonoma	SON	DA	Home feeder
✓ Dark-eyed Junco	1	11/6	Kenwood	SON	RR	Slate-colored form
✓ Dark-eyed Junco	1	11/10	Fort Bragg	MEN	DT	Slate-colored form
Lapland Longspur	1	11/4	Ten Mile Beach	MEN	DT	Male
Rusty Blackbird	1	10/29	Spaletta Ranch, Point Reyes	MRN	DE, DH, BDP	
Pine Siskin	82	11/6	Kenwood	SON	RR	Home feeder

Observers: Dick Ashford, Dennis Beale, Nancy Conzett, Doug Ellis, David Hofmann, Brendon Hutchinson, Teri Law, John McDonagh, Dan Nelson, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Ruth Rudesill, Dorothy Tobkin, Alan Wight.

**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 (October through April) are held at 7:30 PM in Room 221 Darwin Hall, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, California. Dues are \$15 per family, \$8 per individual, or \$3 per student for one year of membership. Send dues checks to the treasurer shown below.

### 1994-1995 Officers

President:	Richard Merriss, 2046 Hearn Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95407	525-8629
Vice-president:	Bob Rains, 450A Las Casitas, Santa Rosa, CA 95403	528-6785
Secretary:	Winnie Nelson, 400 Sunnyslope Avenue, Petaluma, CA 94952	762-6152
Treasurer:	Mike Nelligan, 124 Wikiup Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95403	576-1475

### 1994-1995 Chairpersons

Field Trips:	Ruth Rudesill, P.O. Box 371, Kenwood, CA 95452	833-6026
Observations:	Ned Wynn, 129B Powell Avenue, Healdsburg, CA 95448	431-8412
Social:	Barbara Gumtow, 7915 Bella Vista Drive, Sebastopol, CA 95472	823-7869
Christmas Count:	Doug Ellis, P.O. Box 155, Eldridge, CA 95452	585-0226
	Benjamin D. Parmeter, 2500 Emerson Street, Napa, CA 94958	255-6757
Kite Tales:	Alan Wight, 300 6th Street #2, Petaluma, CA 94952	763-8572
	Bob and Bertha Rains, 450A Las Casitas, Santa Rosa, CA 95403	528-6785