

KITE TALES

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

VOL. 3 - No 1

SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER 1969

NOVEMBER MEETING: 8:00 P.M. Thursday, November 14, 1968
Room 112 Darwin Hall of Sciences
Sonoma State College

SPEAKER: Charles Brown, PhD candidate at University of California, Berkeley, now instructing at Santa Rosa Junior College.
"The Biology of the Salamander Desmognathus".

NOVEMBER FIELD TRIP: Saturday, November 16, 1968 to Gray Lodge Refuge. A "must" spot in Northern California birding. Should yield such items as swans, ducks and geese by the thousands, cranes, herons, shorebirds, raptors and many, many more. Any of the following species are quite possible and each would be new on RROS lists: Ross Goose, European Widgeon, Ferruginous Hawk, Chukar Partridge, or Mountain Bluebird.

Enter the refuge from the checking station on Pennington Road about two miles due north of the Sutter Buttes. Meeting time 10 A.M. at that spot. The approach around the west side of the buttes is recommended for some good birding. Cross the river at Colusa.

CHRISTMAS COUNTS NEED VOLUNTEERS.

Our own Christmas count will be held in the Santa Rosa area on Sunday, December 22. All observers are urged to participate. Don't feel it's just for the "experts". Our count of 46 Nuttall Woodpeckers was ten less than the year before but was still high in the nation last year. Some concentrated efforts on Virginia Rails could put us tops for that species, also. We were close to the top on Killdeer and Snipe and the Violet-green Swallow offers another very good possibility for leadership. Our 1967 total of 126 species has been our top to date but we have a combined figure of 154 from all counts and five additional species have been seen in the area during the count periods. Start NOW to locate the birds so that we might "get 'em all" this year.

Other groups would like additional participants for their counts, as well. The MADRONE AUDUBON ASSOCIATION will hold its Bodega area count on Saturday, December 21. Contact Baron McLean, 1002 Danbeck Ave., Santa Rosa, 95404. The TOMALES BAY Count will be on Saturday, December 28. Contact Raymond Higge, 3501 Fillmore Street, San Francisco, 94123. The POINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY count will be on Sunday, December 29. Contact Jack Guggolz, 685 Mesa Way, Richmond, 94805. The OAKLAND count is to be held on New Years Day.

Sonoma Off-shore list: These are in addition to those noted in the story.

Common Loon	Surf Scoter	California Gull
Western Grebe	Ruddy Duck	Ring-billed Gull
White Pelican	Surfbird	Bonaparte Gull
Brown Pelican	Black Turnstone	Heermann Gull
Great Blue Heron	Willet	Belted Kingfisher
Snowy Egret	Marbled Godwit	
Black-crowned Night	Glaucous-winged Gull	
Heron	Western Gull	
White-winged Scoter	Herring Gull	

(That Tufted Puffin was also a 'first' for the RROS itself!! It thus becomes the 251st species we've noted. GLB, Editor)

One of the guests along on the trip was quite impressed by the experience and was so moved that she expressed her thanks to her host, Dorothy Ratcliffe, in the following manner:

Thank you for your genial hospitality
And bright adventure into ornithology;
Giving me the lucky opportunity of enj
of enjoying great conviviality,
And etching on my sometimes earth-bound mind such things
As vibrant beat and dip of white gulls' feathered wings
Against the crisp, blue morning sky; a swoop that sings
Of graceful winged loveliness, which arcs and brings
Companion wanders:--the swift and darting arrow-flight
Of long-necked cormorants speeding, the startling sight
Of diving pelicans in search of food, the fruit-bright
Orange-billed small puffin bird with plumes of night.
These off-shore sharings will remain for me, I know,
A stirring memory of cool October's glow
Upon the ocean's restless, churning, spuming flow
On the wvek-end when we did a-birding go.

Mauricia Price.

And our thanks to you, Dorothy, for sharing it with us.

A trip to the southern end of the Point Reyes National Seashore was held on October 26, 1968. Lack of communications held the observers to a minimum, unfortunately. Under the able leadership of Jack Guggolz, the party located 57 species. (One, the Rough-legged Hawk, was still another addition the the RROS outings list, so we are up to 252. GLB)

W Western Grebe	Western Sandpiper	Long-billed Marsh Wren
Double-crested Cormorant	Sanderling	Hermit Thrush
Great Blue Heron	Glaucous-winged Gull	Western Bluebird
Turkey Vulture	Western Gull	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Ring-billed Gull	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Cooper Hawk	Anna Hummingbird	Loggerhead Shrike
Red-tailed Hawk	Red-shafted Flicker	Starling
Rough-legged Hawk	Black Phoebe	House Sparrow
Sparrow Hawk	Say Phoebe	Western Meadowlark
California Quail	Steller Jay	Red-winged Blackbird
American Coot	Scrub Jay	Brewer Blackbird
Killdeer	Common Raven	Rufous-sided Towhee
Black-bellied Plover	Common Crow	Brown Towhee
Black Turnstone	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	Savannah Sparrow
Whimbrel	Common Bushtit	Oregon Junco
Spotted Sandpiper	Brown Creeper	White-crowned Sparrow
Willet	Wrentit	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Least Sandpiper	Winter Wren	Fox Sparrow
Dunlin	Bewick Wren	Song Sparrow

RECENT FIELD TRIPS

A trip to the vicinity of Bodega Lagoon was held on Saturday, September 28 under gray sky cover. No sun, but no rain, either. The twelve observers saw 50 species as a group and those indefatigable birders, Jack Guggolz and Bob Failing, added another 18 before they called it a day. Dredging of the channel did little to help the birding, although the gulls were getting fat on it !!

Common Loon	Ruddy Turnstone	Belted Kingfisher
Horned Grebe	Black Turnstone	Red-shafted Flicker
Western Grebe	Long-billed Curlew	Black Phoebe
Pied-billed Grebe	Whimbrel	Barn Swallow
Brown Pelican	Wandering Tattler	Scrub Jay
Brandt Cormorant	Willet	Common Raven
Great Blue Heron	Greater Yellowlegs	Common Crow
Snowy Egret	Least Sandpiper	Long-billed Marsh Wren
Black Brant	Dunlin	Loggerhead Shrike
Pintail	Short-billed Dowitcher	Starling
Greater Scaup	Marbled Godwit	Audubon Warbler
White-winged Scoter	American Avocet	House Sparrow
Surf Scoter	Northern Phalarope	Western Meadowlark
Ruddy Duck	Glaucous-winged Gull	Redwinged Blackbird
Turkey Vulture	Western Gull	Tricolored Blackbird
Red-tailed Hawk	Herring Gull	Brewer Blackbird
Sparrow Hawk	California Gull	House Finch
California Quail	Ring-billed Gull	Lesser Goldfinch
American Coot	Mew Gull	Brown Towhee
Black Oyster-catcher	Heermann Gull	Savannah Sparrow
Semipalmated Plover	Forster Tern	White-crowned Sparrow
Killdeer	Common Murre	Song Sparrow
Black-bellied Plover	Pigeon Guillemot	

October 19, 1968 Offshore, Sonoma Coast. 9 observers.
The fifth biannual RROS offshore trip aboard George Sumner's "FINBACK" was held on October 19. Jean Bishop, Dorothy Ratcliffe, Baron McLean, Frank Kortum, and 'Mike' Parmeter of the RROS along with four guests spent a pleasant, sunshiny day 4 to 10 miles off the Sonoma Coast between Bodega Head and the Russian River. The morning started at The Tides wharf and birding was done on the lagoon before the 7:50 A.M. departure time. The first pelagic species seen was a New Zealand Shearwater, and fortunate we were to see this one as no other individual of this species was seen during the day (contrasted to 300+ last year!). Sooty Shearwaters were a bit more common, an estimate in excess of 75 for the day, and approximately 10 Pink-footed Shearwaters were noted. Parasitic Jaegers were seen several times and a Skua was in view on two occasions. Northern Phalaropes were common but, in contrast, only a single Red Phalarope was sighted. Common Murres were just that close to shore but no Guillemots were seen. A pair of Cassin Auklets were sighted about three miles out early in the morning and a single Red-necked Grebe was spotted near Bodega Head on the way out. Arctic Loons were in evidence several times well off-shore. All three possible species of Cormorants were listed. The high-light of the day, however, was nearly at the end of the trip on the way in near Bodega Head. There excellent views were obtained of a Tufted Puffin in Winter plumage. The bird was quite close to the boat so that its large orange bill was clearly seen. This was an ornithological 'first' for all the birders, either it was a new life species or it was the first that had been seen in the winter plumage.
A pleasant trip. Good weather, smooth riding, and excellent birding.

"Mike" Parmeter

Really, Jack? Not even one li'l ole Audubon Warbler?!!!

Our field trip chairman, Jack Guggolz announces the following trips for the first half of 1969:

- January 20.....Lake Ralphine
- February 17.....Lake Hennesey
- March 16.....Tubb's Island
- April 20.....Santa Rosa Lagoon
- April ?.....Off-shore trip (Date to be announced)
- May 18.....Ida Clayton Road
- June 15.....Duncan's Mill

It is with regret that we notice the loss of our Vice-president, Wilfred Olmstead, who has left the area to take up residence in Fresno. We have lost a true enthusiast. A replacement for the office is, of course, our great need now. Do I hear a volunteer? How about someone from the distaff side? Come on,, girls. Don't let Marta carry the whole load!

Our thanks and admiration are extended to our President, Robert Failing, for the excellent program he delivered at our September meeting concerning "The Birds of Mallorca"

RROS OFFICERS...1968-1969

PRESIDENT	Robert Failing	3949 Harmon Dr., El Sobrante, Cal.	94803
Vice-pres.			
REC. SCTY.	Marta Mayer	Box 526, Guerneville, California	95446
COR. SCTY.	Gordon Bolander	1650 Timber Hill Rd., Santa Rosa	95401
Treasurer	'Mike' Parmeter	360 School St., Cotati, California	94928
Programs	Peter Leveque	205 Dover Court, Santa Rosa, Calif.	95401
Field Trips	Jack Guggolz	685 Mesa Way, Richmond, California	94805

[Handwritten notes and signatures at the bottom of the page, including "Marta Mayer" and "Jack Guggolz"]