

# KITE TALES

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
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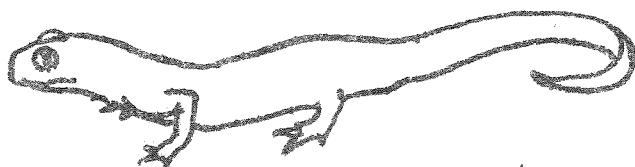
DECEMBER MEETING: 8:00 P.M. Thursday, December 12, 1968  
Room 112 Darwin Hall of Sciences  
Sonoma State College

SPEAKER: Robert Rubin, instructor at Santa Rosa Junior College, who will speak on "The Coexistence of Elegant and Caspian Terns on a Common Breeding Ground." Illustrated with the speaker's own slides.

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Don't forget that our Christmas count will be held on Sunday, December 22. Contact Lynn Stafford if you and/or your friends can participate.  
87 George St., Cotati, Cal., 94928. 795-7557  
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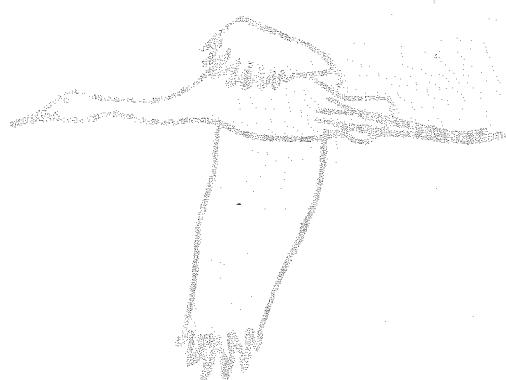
At the November meeting of the RROS Mr. 'Chuck' Brown presented an interesting program based upon his PhD research on the Red Salamander, Ensatina escholtzii. He illustrated his talk with a film showing the habitat types for each of the several subspecies found within the state of California. The cryptic coloration of each of the subspecies was quite dramatic and intergrades were shown for those areas of overlap between subspecific populations. Mr. Brown is to be complimented for his excellent presentation.

Peter Leveque.



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The material about the Point Reyes Bird Observatory which accompanies this issue comes from an organization which well deserves the backing of anyone with an interest in the wild birdlife of our area. Many of you are already actively supporting this venture. We suggest that the materials might be passed on to others. It is hoped that those who haven't yet joined with this enthusiastic, hard-working group of birders will soon do so. Their pursuit of directed, meaningful field studies will produce results not to be expected from the traditional observations of even the most skilled individual observer.

The November field trip of the RBOB was held on the 15th to the Graylock Gamefowl Management Area north of Sucter Buttes. It was a warm, overcast day with occasional brief appearances of the sun. Bleeding this good was by far the most common goose, followed by several thousands of Snow Geese. Small numbers of Canada Geese were seen and these were of the medium or small-sized races. On the occasions the Rock Goose was carefully and definitely identified. Despite a thorough search, none of the more unusual ducks were located. A single long-legged Hawk was seen at close range, and two Gull-billed Terns were observed at the Herdman Ranch just north of the refuge area. Over 200 Sandhill Cranes were seen at the refuge near the entrance road. This species was



noted frequently in its graceful flight and its deep, rolling call was in evidence throughout the day. The calls of Virginia Rail were heard and Common Gallinules were encountered often. Shorebirds which were listed were: Killdeer, Common Snipe, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, and Long-billed Dowitcher. Burrowing Owls were seen to good advantage through the spotting scopes. Yellow-billed Cuckoos were common in the vicinity although they were infrequently noted within the refuge limits. A few Yellow-throats were noted

several times near the Headquarters area and several handsome male Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen during a large flock of Rusty-colored Blackbirds.

Approximately 225 Whistling Swans were seen west of the Buttes in the late afternoon. Movements into and away from the roosting flock made identification observations of the flight characteristics. A pair of Rock Sandpiper, Green-tailed Towhee, and a goodly supply of Mountain Bluebirds the above mentioned birds felt well rewarded for their journey.

#### ROBERT BROWN PARK

All told a most prolific species was noted on this field trip which had not previously been recorded by the RBOB. This number but slightly less to 55. The new ones were: Anna's Hummer, Tawny Empidonax, Sandhill Crane, and Mountain Bluebird. Other lists may follow.

#### Species noted:

Blue-billed Gulls  
Giant Petrel  
Glaucous Gulls  
Greater Prairie-Chicken  
Greater Scaups  
Horned Larks

Snow Geese  
Lesser Scaups  
Mallard  
Merganser  
Pectoral Sandpiper  
Rock Sandpiper

Cinnamon Teal  
 American Widgeon  
 Shoveler  
 Ruddy Duck  
 Turkey Vulture  
 Red-tailed Hawk  
 Rough-legged Hawk  
 Marsh Hawk  
 Sparrow Hawk  
 Ring-necked Pheasant  
 Sandhill Crane  
 Virginia Rail  
 Common Gallinule  
 American Coot  
 Killdeer  
 Common Snipe  
 Greater Yellowlegs  
 Least Sandpiper  
 Dunlin  
 Long-billed Dowitcher  
 Ring-billed Gull  
 Mourning Dove  
 Burrowing Owl  
 Belted Kingfisher  
 Red-shafted Flicker

Downy Woodpecker  
 Black Phoebe  
 Yellow-billed Magpie  
 Bewick Wren  
 Long-billed Marsh Wren  
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
 Cedar Pipit  
 Loggerhead Shrike  
 Starling  
 Audubon Warbler  
 Yellowthroat  
 House Sparrow  
 Western Meadowlark  
 Yellow-headed Blackbird  
 Redwinged Blackbird  
 Tricolored Blackbird  
 Brewer Blackbird  
 Brown-headed Cowbird  
 American Goldfinch  
 Brown Towhee  
 Savannah Sparrow  
 White-crowned Sparrow  
 Golden-crowned Sparrow  
 Song Sparrow

ALL the above were seen in the Gray Lodge area. Additional species noted outside the refuge were as follows:

Whistling Swan  
 White-tailed Kite  
 Cooper Hawk  
 California Quail  
 Chukar Partridge

Rock Wren  
 Horned Lark  
 Mountain Bluebird  
 House Finch  
 Lark Sparrow

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