

Kite Tales

Redwood Region Ornithological Society

Volume 30 Number 2

October 1995



COMING ATTRACTIONS

General Meeting. Thursday, October 12. Darwin Hall, Room 221, Sonoma State University at 7:30 PM. The program will be "On Safari in East Africa" by Mike Parmeter and Jack Arnold. They will show their slides of this exciting trip. The parking fee at Sonoma State University is \$1.50.

General Meeting. Thursday, November 9. Darwin Hall, Room 221, Sonoma State University at 7:30 PM. The parking fee at Sonoma State University is \$1.50. The program will be announced in the next Kite Tales.

Field Trip to Bodega Bay. Saturday, October 7. Last year this area was outstanding for its fall vagrants. We will meet at the Rail Ponds at 8:00 AM. Bring a lunch. The leader is David Hofmann. Call David at 546-0325 for directions/details.

Field Trip to Willow Creek Canyon and Russian River Area. Saturday, November 11. Meet at 8:00 AM at the pullout approximately one half mile down Willow Creek Road from Bridgehaven (next to the river). Bring a lunch. Leader is Dan Nelson.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please remember to pay your membership dues for the 1995-1996 year. Dues are \$15 per family or \$8 per individual per year. Student dues are \$3. Send your check to RROS treasurer Mike Nelligan, 124 Wikiup Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95403 or bring it to the potluck meeting or the first general meeting (on October 12) at Darwin Hall, Sonoma State University. Make checks payable to RROS.

KITE TALES DEADLINES

Please observe the following deadlines when providing information for inclusion in the Kite Tales. The deadline for inclusion of observations (to Ned Wynn) is the 20th of the month. The deadline for inclusion of announcements (to David Hofmann) is the 25th of the month.

Field Trip Report

Point Reyes National Seashore Sept. 23, 1995

If you ever wanted to be on a great field trip where rare vagrants were being found throughout the day, this was the one field trip to be on. There were 22 birders that met at Whitehouse Pool County Park at 7:30 AM. Our trip leader, Mike Parmeter, led us out to the Mendosa Ranch where a male Cape May Warbler had been seen the day before. It was there along with a young male American Redstart. Next came the lighthouse, where a Least Flycatcher was found behind the apartments. At the Fish Docks were 2 to 3 Blackpoll Warblers and a Black and White Warbler. Lunch was planned at Drake's Beach, but not before everyone enjoyed the Black-throated Blue Warbler and Chestnut-sided Warbler present in the trees above the monument. Then it was learned that an Ovenbird had been found at the Fish Docks, so back we went. With a little patience it was located and seen by almost everyone that was still with us. One of our group even heard a Red-throated Pipit fly over at the Fish Docks. The "outer point" total for the day was 77 species.

Participants were: Avis Anderson, Carol Brant, Mary Finn, Betty Groce, Barbara Gumtow, Kevin Guse, David Hofmann, Louise Johnston, Terry Law, Bill Lenarz, John & Virginia McDonagh, Roger Marlowe, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Bob & Bertha Rains, Ruth Rudesill, Jim & Jean Tonascia, Gill Thompson, Alan Wight, Ned Wynn.-----David A. Hofmann

Common Loon	Least Sandpiper	Bewick's Wren	MacGillivray's Warbler
Horned Grebe	Red-necked Phalarope	House Wren	Common Yellowthroat
Western Grebe	Heerman's Gull	Winter Wren	Wilson's Warbler
Sooty Shearwater	Ring-billed Gull	Swainson's Thrush	Western Tanager
Brown Pelican	Western Gull	Red-throated Pipit	Black-headed Grosbeak
Double-crsted Cormorant	Glaucous-winged Gull	American Pipit	Savannah Sparrow
Mallard	Common Murre	European Starling	Fox Sparrow
Black Scoter	Pigeon Guillemot	Hutton's Vireo	Song Sparrow
Surf Scoter	Rock Dove	Warbling Vireo	Lincoln's Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Barn Owl	Orange-crnd Warbler	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Northern Harrier	Great Horned Owl	Yellow Warbler	White-crowned Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Anna's Hummingbird	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Red-winged Blackbird
American Kestrel	Least Flycatcher	Cape May Warbler	Tricolored Blackbird
California Quail	Pacific-slope Flycatcher	Blk-thtd Blue Warbler	Brewer's Blackbird
Killdeer	Black Phoebe	Blk & White Warbler	House Finch
Black Oystercatcher	Say's Phoebe	American Redstart	American Goldfinch
Willet	Horned Lark	Ovenbird	House Sparrow
Wandering Tattler	Barn Swallow	Townsend's Warbler	MacGillivray's Warbler
Whimbrel	Common Raven	Yellow-rumped Warbler	
Western Sandpiper	Rock Wren	Common Yellowthroat	

RROS OBSERVATIONS, SEPTEMBER 1995 (SONOMA COUNTY)

3 x 5 - done

Species	Number	Date	Location	County	Observers	Notes
Sooty Shearwater	5000+	9/9	off Bodega Head	SON	DH, BDP	
Peregrine Falcon	1	9/4	Bodega Harbor	SON	DE, DH, RM, RR	
Peregrine Falcon	1	9/25	Petaluma Sewage Ponds	SON	DE, DH, DN, BDP, AW	
Blue Grouse	1	9/25	King's Ridge Road	SON	DE, DH, DN, BDP, AW	
Lesser Yellowlegs	1	9/25	Petaluma Sewage Ponds	SON	DE, DH, DN, BDP, AW	
Red Knot	1	9/9	Doran County Park	SON	DH, BDP	
Red Knot	1	9/25	Doran County Park	SON	DE, DH, DN, BDP, AW	
Pectoral Sandpiper	1	9/25	Petaluma Sewage Ponds	SON	DE, DH, DN, BDP, AW	
Red Phalarope	1	9/3	off Bodega Head	SON	DH	
Common Tern	2	9/3-4	Bodega Harbor	SON	DN, RM	
Common Tern	1	9/9-10	Salmon Creek mouth	SON	DN, DH, BDP	
Common Tern	1	9/25	Doran County Park	SON	DE, DH, DN, BDP, AW	
Black Tern	1	9/4	Bodega Harbor	SON	DE	
Parasitic Jaeger	2	9/9	Bodega Head	SON	DN	
Parasitic Jaeger	2	9/25	Bodega Harbor & Bodega Head	SON	DE, DH, DN, BDP, AW	
Long-eared Owl	1	9/25	King's Ridge Road	SON	DE, DH, DN, BDP, AW	
Barred Owl	1	9/9	Stewart's Point Road	SON	RM, AW, CW	
Willow Flycatcher	1	8/31	Ft. Ross State Park	SON	DB	
Eastern Kingbird	1	9/15	Bodega Head/Hole-in-the-Head	SON	BDP, MOB	
Tennessee Warbler	1	9/15	Bodega Head/Owl Canyon	SON	BDP	
Magnolia Warbler	1f	9/10	Bodega Head/Hole-in-the-Head	SON	DH, BDP, DN, FT	fall female plumage
Palm Warbler	1	9/19	Bodega Head/Hole-in-the-Head	SON	BDP, JS	
Blackpoll Warbler	1	9/17	Bodega Head/Hole-in-the-Head	SON	LL, BL, BDP, AW	
Black and White Warbler	1	9/3	Bodega Bay/Owl Canyon	SON	SC, LS, DN	
Black and White Warbler	1	9/13	Bodega Bay/Bay Flat Road	SON	DN	
Black and White Warbler	2	9/15-17	Bodega Bay/Hole-in-the-Head	SON	FT, RL, RM, MOB	
American Redstart	1m	9/6	Bodega Bay/Owl Canyon	SON	BG, JMc, MOB	1st year male
American Redstart	1m	9/9	Willow Creek Road	SON	DN	adult male
American Redstart	1f	9/11	Bodega Head/Hole-in-the-Head	SON	BDP, MOB	
American Redstart	1f	9/11-17	Bodega Head/Owl Canyon	SON	BDP, JT, DN, MOB	
American Redstart	1f	9/17	Bodega Dunes Campground	SON	DE, DH, BDP, BL,	
Worm-eating Warbler	1	9/15-16	Bodega Head/Owl Canyon	SON	BDP, MOB	1st county record
Northern Waterthrush	1	9/9	Bodega Dunes Campground	SON	DN	
Canada Warbler	1m	9/10	Bodega Dunes Campground	SON	DH, BDP, DN	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2m	9/12-19	Bodega Head/Hole-in-the-Head	SON	BDP, JS, DN	1st year males

Observers: Dennis Beal, Suzanne Cogen, Demian Ebert, Doug Ellis, Betty Groce, David Hofmann, Rick Lebadour, Bill Lenarz, Leslie Lieurance, Roger Marlow, John McDonagh, Richard Merriss, Dan Nelson, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Ruth Rudesill, Lynn Stafford, John Sterling, Jean Tonascia, Forest Tomlinson, Alan Wight, Chris Wood

The **Worm-eating Warbler** seen at Owl Canyon on 9/16 was **Ruth Rudesills #597** for her North America Life List. She still has a chance to see #600 by the end of this year!! That's only one specie per month for the next three months. The warbler was also **#450** for her California life list.

Alan Wight saw his **300th** Sonoma County bird on the 9/16 pelagic trip to the Cordell Banks. On the way back Alan had a **Black-footed Albatross** far enough north to be countable in Sonoma County. Unfortunately, because he was on the pelagic trip, he missed the **Worm-eating Warbler** seen that day in Owl Canyon. Maybe next time Alan.

Someone might notice in the observations this month how many times "**BDP**" is an observer. **Mike Parmeter (BDP)** retired this summer from his many years in the medical profession. He can now devote more of his time to finding those exciting vagrants we all like to chase down on our weekends. He is not only finding new birds for his own Sonoma County life list, but he is also adding new ones to the county list. **The Worm-eating Warbler is #400 for Sonoma County.** Keep up the good "work" Mike!!

RROS OBSERVATIONS, SEPTEMBER 1995

Species	Number	Date	Location	County	Observers	Notes
Red Knot	1	8/26	beach north of Garcia River	MEN	DE, CV, JW	
Red Knot	1	9/20	Virgin Creek Beach	MEN	BK	
Semi-palmated Sandpiper	1	8/26	Princeton Marsh	S.M.	AW, DH, BDP	
Semi-palmated Sandpiper	1	9/2	10 Mile River	MEN	JW	1st county record
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1	9/17	MacKerricher State Park	MEN	DT	
Ruff	1	9/14	Garcia River mouth	MEN	DT	reeve
Parasitic Jaeger	1	9/8	MacKerricher State Park	MEN	DT	
Common Tern	1	9/13	MacKerricher State Park	MEN	DT	
Lewis' Woodpecker	9	9/11-12	Hopland Field Station	MEN	BK, CV	
Red-breasted Sapsucker	1	9/13	Point Reyes/Lighthouse	MRN	BDP, NW	
Hairy Woodpecker	1	9/21	Point Reyes/Abandoned Ranch	MRN	BDP, RB	
Willow Flycatcher	3	9/2	south of Fort Bragg	MEN	DT	also Pt. Cabrillo
Willow Flycatcher	3	9/31	Point Reyes/New Willows	MRN	BDP, NW	
Golden-winged Warbler	1m	8/29	Pescadero Creek	S.M.	DN	
Tennessee Warbler	1	9/12	Boggs Lake	LAKE	JW	1st county record
Tennessee Warbler	2	9/13	Point Reyes/New Willows	MRN	BDP, NW	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1	9/10	Point Reyes/Lighthouse	MRN	RM	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1	9/12	Mendo. Cty Botanical Gardens	MEN	DT	immature
Chestnut-sided Warbler	2	9/13	Point Reyes/Lighthouse	MRN	BDP, NW	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1	9/16	Miner Hole Road	MEN	CV	
Cape May Warbler	1m	9/21	Point Reyes/Mendoza Ranch	MRN	BDP, RB	
Palm Warbler	1	9/13	Point Reyes/Lighthouse	MRN	BDP, RS, NW	
Blackpoll Warbler	1	9/13	Point Reyes/New Willows	MRN	BDP, NW	
Blackpoll Warbler	1	9/13	Point Reyes/Fish Docks	MRN	BDP, NW	
Black and White Warbler	2-3	9/13	Point Reyes/Lighthouse	MRN	BDP, NW	
American Redstart	1m	8/26	Miner Hole Road	MEN	DE, CV, JW	adult
American Redstart	1	9/10	Point Reyes/lighthouse	MRN	RM	
American Redstart	1f	9/13	Point Reyes/Upper New Willows	MRN	BDP, NW	
American Redstart	1	9/15	Mendo. Cty Botanical Gardens	MEN	DT	immature
Ovenbird	1	9/13	Point Reyes/Lighthouse	MRN	BDP, NW	
Northern Waterthrush	1	9/13	Point Reyes/Upper New Willows	MRN	BDP	
Orchard Oriole	1f	9/13	Point Reyes/New Willows	MRN	BDP, NW	
Northern Oriole	1f	9/13	Point Reyes/New Willows	MRN	BDP, NW	"Baltimore" race
Swamp Sparrow	1	9/13	Point Reyes/Lighthouse	MRN	BDP, NW	

Observers: Richard Bertoli, Demian Ebert, David A. Hofmann, Bob Keiffer, Roger Marlowe, Dan Nelson, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Rich Stallcup, Dorothy Tobkin, Chuck Vaughn, Jerry White, Alan Wight, Ned Wynn

Almost news:

Through the birding grapevine it has been learned that at the recent AOU meeting certain species splits were agreed to: the Scrub Jay will become 4 separate species; Florida Jay, Woodhouse Jay, Santa Cruz Jay, & Scrub Jay. The Solitary Vireo will become 3 (?) species: Solitary Vireo, Cassin's Vireo and Plumbeus Vireo. Rufous-sided Towhee will become Spotted Towhee (western) and Rufous-sided Towhee (eastern). The Sharp-tailed Sparrow will split into 2 species, Nelson's Sparrow (western) and Sharp-tailed Sparrow (eastern). And last but not least the Northern Oriole will go back to Baltimore Oriole and Bullock's Oriole. This will probably be made public next year. None of the above is "official" yet, so don't add anything to your lists just yet!!

Lanceolated Warbler Spotted on Farallon Islands

First Sighting Ever in North America

What is believed to have been a Lanceolated Warbler (*Loustella lanceolata*) was spotted on Southeast Farallon Island by Point Reyes Bird Observatory biologists on September 11, 1995. This species breeds in northern Russia, including western Siberia, and winters in Southeast Asia. It's occurrence on the island represents the first recorded sighting in North America apart from a handful of sightings on the Aleutian Islands in Alaska. The bird was caught in a mist net which was set up by the Bird Observatory biologists as part of their routine bird banding operations. The warbler was banded, measured, photographed, and released. It was seen on the island the following day, but evidently departed the night of the 12th.

The Lanceolated Warbler is a member of a genus that includes several difficult-to-identify species, including the grasshopper warblers of Eurasia. It is a showcase example of a "little brown bird", a generic term for birds possessing few plumage features that readily distinguish it. All measurements, including relative distances between primary tips, fit the specifications for the Lanceolated Warbler. However, positive identification by comparing the photographs with museum specimens is still needed to confirm the sighting.

The Lanceolated Warbler is notorious as a "skulker", a bird that spends its time hidden in thick ground-level vegetation. It is often compared to a mouse, glimpsed only while scurrying through an opening in the grass. Thus, it is a bird that could be a more frequent visitor to North America than presumed. For more information on the sighting, or the research being performed on the Farallon Islands, contact the Point Reyes Bird Observatory at (415) 868-1221, ext 24.

Point Reyes Bird Observatory
Lisle Lee

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 membership. Send dues checks to the treasurer shown below.

1995-1996 Officers

President:	Bob Rains, 450A Las Casitas, Santa Rosa, CA 95403	528-6785
Vice-president:		
Secretary:	Wini Nelson, 400 Sunnyslope Avenue, Petaluma, CA 94952	762-6152
Treasurer:	Mike Nelligan, 124 Wikiup Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95403	576-1475

1995-1996 Chairpersons

Field Trips:	Benjamin D. Parmeter, 2500 Emerson Street, Napa, CA 94558	255-6757
Observations:	Ned Wynn, 1298 Powell Avenue, Healdsburg, CA 95448	431-8412
Social:	Barbara Gumtow, 7915 Bella Vista Drive, Sebastopol, CA 95472	823-7869
Christmas Count:	Doug Ellis, PO Box 155, Eldrige, CA 95431	
Kite Tales:	David A. Hofmann, 2021 Pioneer Way #47, Santa Rosa, CA 95403	546-0325

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