

Kite Tales

Redwood Region Ornithological Society

Volume 30 Number 6

February 1996



COMING ATTRACTIONS

General Meeting. Thursday, February 8. Darwin Hall, Room 221, Sonoma State University at 7:30 PM. The program will be presented by Richard Stallcup, birder extraordinaire, who will take us on an "Armchair Pelagic Trip". This is a program that you do not want to miss!! The parking fee at Sonoma State University is \$1.50.

General Meeting. Thursday, March 14. 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 Lake Hennessey. Saturday, February 10. Meet at 8:00 AM at the end of Conn Valley Road. Take Howell Mtn. Road east off of Silverado Trail to Conn Valley Road. Mike Parmeter will be our leader. Call Mike at 255-6757 for further information.

Field Trip to Tule Lake/Klamath Basin Area. Saturday, February 17 to Monday, February 19. Please plan to join us for the annual President's Day trip to this wonderful area. We are planning to stay at the Motel 6 in Klamath Falls, Oregon (503)884-2110). We will meet each morning (Sat., Sun., & Mon.) at 7:45 AM at the Motel 6 to go out for the day. Ruth Rudesill will be the leader (833-6026).

Field Trip to Bodega Bay/Salmon Creek Road. Saturday, March 16. Meet at 1:00 PM at the "rail ponds" in Bodega Bay. We will check out what is in the harbor area that afternoon. We will break for dinner and then meet again at 6:00 PM at the "rail ponds". Then we will go owling. We will proceed either to Salmon Creek Road or to Willow Creek Road to look for owls. Renown owling expert, Doug Ellis, will be the leader of this always exciting trip.

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

Bodega Bay to Willow Creek Canyon January 13, 1996

We had beautiful weather, sunny and fairly warm (out of the wind). There were 14 participants. We birded Bodega Head and the harbor area, then drove to Willow Creek Canyon and ended at the Russian River mouth. Bird and mammal highlights included: Wandering Tattler and scoping for alcids off Bodega Head, Sora at Hole-in-the-Head pond, male Eurasian Wigeon in the harbor, several Swamp Sparrows at the Ecological Campground area at Willow Creek Canyon, the Black-and-white Warbler up Willow Creek Canyon and an immature male Elephant Seal hauled out at the Russian River mouth.

Participants: Avis Anderson, Jack Arnold, Ted Eliot, Mary Finn, Betty Groce, Barb Gumtow, David Hofmann, Louise Johnston, John McDonagh, Richard Merriss, Ruth Rudesill, Jim & Jean Tonascia, and Ned Wynn.-----Ruth Rudesill

Red-throated Loon	Bufflehead	Sanderling	Chstnt-bckd Chickadee
Pacific Loon	Red-breasted Merganser	Least Sandpiper	Bushtit
Common Loon	Ruddy Duck	Dunlin	Brown Creeper
Pied-billed Grebe	Turkey Vulture	Mew Gull	Bewick's Wren
Horned Grebe	White-tailed Kite	Ring-billed Gull	Marsh Wren
Eared Grebe	Northern Harrier	California Gull	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Western Grebe	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Herring Gull	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Clark's Grebe	Red-shouldered Hawk	Thayer's Gull	American Robin
Brown Pelican	Red-tailed Hawk	Western Gull	Wrentit
Double-crstd Cormorant	American Kestrel	Glaucous-winged Gull	American Pipit
Pelagic Cormorant	Prairie Falcon	Forster's Tern	European Starling
Brandt's Cormorant	California Quail	Common Murre	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Sora	Pigeon Guillemot	Black-and-white Warbler
Great Egret	Common Moorhen	Marbled Murrelet	Rufous-sided Towhee
Snowy Egret	American Coot	Ancient Murrelet	California Towhee
Black-crwnd Night Heron	Black-bellied Plover	Rhinoceros Auklet	Song Sparrow
Brant	Killdeer	Anna's Hummingbird	Lincoln's Sparrow
Mallard	Black Oystercatcher	Belted Kingfisher	Swamp Sparrow
Gadwall	Willet	Nuttall's Woodpecker	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Eurasian Wigeon	Wandering Tattler	Downy Woodpecker	White-crowned Sparrow
American Wigeon	Whimbrel	Northern Flicker	Red-winged Blackbird
Greater Scaup	Marbled Godwit	Black Phoebe	Western Meadowlark
Lesser Scaup	Ruddy Turnstone	Scrub Jay	Brewer's Blackbird
Surf Scoter	Black Turnstone	American Crow	House Finch
White-winged Scoter	Surfbird	Common Raven	Pine Siskin
Common Goldeneye	Total = 101 species		

1995 SANTA ROSA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The annual Santa Rosa Christmas Bird Count was held on December 17, 1995. Thirty eight participants took part finding 143 species and a total of 24,955 individuals. While the species was fairly good the overall total was very low. This was probably due to very little standing water for shorebirds and a poor food crop for robins, blackbirds, and starlings, whose numbers were low in the count circle but high in other areas of the county such as the grape vineyards. Here is the overall list of birds:

Pied-billed Grebe-----	99	Virginia Rail-----	1	White-breasted Nuthatch-----	63
Horned Grebe-----	3	Sora-----	4	Brown Creeper-----	13
Eared Grebe-----	8	Common Moorhen-----	3	Bewick's Wren-----	22
Western Grebe-----	2	American Coot-----	1197	House Wren-----	1
Clark's Grebe-----	1	Black-bellied Plover-----	2	Winter Wren-----	14
White Pelican-----	4	Killdeer-----	86	Marsh Wren-----	27
Brown Pelican-----	4	Greater Yellowlegs-----	28	Golden-crowned Kinglet-----	66
Double-crested Cormorant-----	160	Spotted Sandpiper-----	1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet-----	477
Great Blue Heron-----	26	Long-billed Curlew-----	84	Western Bluebird-----	115
Great Egret-----	96	Least Sandpiper-----	36	Hermit Thrush-----	44
Snowy Egret-----	164	Dunlin-----	28	American Robin-----	1205
Cattle Egret-----	11	peep sp.-----	20	Varied Thrush-----	12
Green-backed Heron-----	6	Dowitcher sp.-----	46	Wrentit-----	29
Black-crowned Night Heron-----	21	Common Snipe-----	14	Northern Mockingbird-----	114
Snow Goose-----	1	Mew Gull-----	95	California Thrasher-----	6
Canada Goose-----	-	Ring-billed Gull-----	261	American Pipit-----	336
Wood Duck-----	9	California Gull-----	412	Cedar Waxwing-----	62
Green-winged Teal-----	119	Herring Gull-----	1	Loggerhead Shrike-----	6
Mallard-----	887	Glaucous-winged Gull-----	11	European Starling-----	1833
Northern Pintail-----	21	Gull sp.-----	74	Hutton's Vireo-----	16
Cinnamon Teal-----	15	Rock Dove-----	323	Orange-crowned Warbler-----	1
Northern Shoveler-----	21	Band-tailed Pigeon-----	20	Yellow-rumped Warbler-----	446
Gadwall-----	10	Mourning Dove-----	212	Black-throated Gray Warbler-----	1
Eurasian Wigeon-----	1	Barn Owl-----	4	Townsend's Warbler-----	20
American Wigeon-----	523	Western Screech-owl-----	2	Common Yellowthroat-----	4
Ring-necked Duck-----	254	Great Horned Owl-----	10	Rufous-sided Towhee-----	80
Common Goldeneye-----	49	Northern Pygmy owl-----	4	California Towhee-----	373
Barrow's Goldeneye-----	1	Anna's Hummingbird-----	103	Rufous-crowned Sparrow-----	4
Bufflehead-----	609	Belted Kingfisher-----	20	Lark Sparrow-----	49
Hooded Merganser-----	2	Acorn Woodpecker-----	79	Savannah Sparrow-----	147
Common Merganser-----	36	Red-breasted Sapsucker-----	6	Fox Sparrow-----	49
Ruddy Duck-----	545	Nuttall's Woodpecker-----	62	Song Sparrow-----	292
Turkey Vulture-----	227	Downy Woodpecker-----	15	Lincoln's Sparrow-----	123
Osprey-----	3	Hairy Woodpecker-----	12	White-throated Sparrow-----	6
White-tailed Kite-----	41	Northern Flicker-----	146	Golden-crowned Sparrow-----	660
Northern Harrier-----	4	Pileated Woodpecker-----	4	White-crowned Sparrow-----	809
Sharp-shinned Hawk-----	37	Black Phoebe-----	119	Dark-eyed Junco-----	741
Cooper's Hawk-----	3	Say's Phoebe-----	25	Red-winged Blackbird-----	1317
Accipiter sp.-----	1	Swallow sp.-----	1	Western Meadowlark-----	912
Red-shouldered Hawk-----	62	Steller's Jay-----	26	Brewer's Blackbird-----	2282
Red-tailed Hawk-----	55	Scrub Jay-----	340	Brown-headed Cowbird-----	9
Ferruginous Hawk-----	1	American Crow-----	1755	Blackbird sp.-----	535
Golden Eagle-----	1 adult	Common Raven-----	70	Purple Finch-----	57
American Kestrel-----	65	Chestnut-backed Chickadee-----	128	House Finch-----	558
Merlin-----	8	Plain Titmouse-----	119	Pine Siskin-----	31
Peregrine Falcon-----	1	Bushit-----	271	Lesser Goldfinch-----	157
Ring-necked Pheasant-----	23	Red-breasted Nuthatch-----	1	American Goldfinch-----	67
California Quail-----	106			House Sparrow-----	126
Mountain Quail-----	4				

*to have 315
need*

Parties: 14-18

Hours on foot: 78.5

Hours by car: 37

Owling hours: 5

Miles on foot: 57.5

Miles by car: 427.5

Owling miles: 34.5

Participants: Avis Anderson, Jack Arnold, Betty Burrige, Glenn Clifton, Carolyn Dixon, Lew Edmondson, Doug Ellis, Christy Flum, Jeff Goodwin, Betty Groce, Eleanor Guilford, Deyea Harper, Jack Harper, Diane Hichwa, Rick LeBaudour, Bill Lenarz, John McDonagh, Richard Merris, Ian Morrison, Gerry Mugele, Lilly Mugele, Adeene Nelligan, Mike Nelligan, Dan Nelson, Wini Nelson, Benjamin Parmeter, Linda Petrulias, Bertha Rains, Bob Rains, Ruth Rudesill, Marilyn Sanders, Phyllis Schmitt, Wayne Tillay, Karen Wagner, Jerry Wagner, Dan Wilson, Ken Wilson, Cindy Young,-----Doug Ellis

RROS OBSERVATIONS, JANUARY 1996 (SONOMA COUNTY)

Species	Number	Date	Location	County	Observers	Notes
Red-necked Grebe	1	1/5	Bodega Harbor	SON	TE	
Red-necked Grebe	1	1/7	Duncan's Landing	SON	AW, DH	
Red-necked Grebe	2	1/23	Doran County Park	SON	BDP	
Eurasian Wigeon	1 m	1/13	Bodega Harbor	SON	RROS	
Redhead	3	1/5	Salmon Creek X Hwy 1	SON	TE	
Barrow's Goldeneye	1	12/17-28	Spring Lake	SON	RR, BG, JMc	female
Peregrine Falcon	1	17	Bodega Head/Owl Canyon	SON	NC, DH, DT	
Heerman's Gull	1 imm	1/23	Bodega Head/Campbell's Cove	SON	BDP	
Glaucous Gull	1 imm	1/7	Jenner/mouth of Russian River	SON	AW, DH	
Marbled Murrelet	8+	1/7	Duncan's Landing	SON	DH, AW	
Ancient Murrelet	4	1/7	Duncan's Landing	SON	AW, DH	
Broad-billed Hummingbird	1 m	1/14	Santa Rosa/W. Hearn Ave	SON	RM, mob	1st county record
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	1/12	Glen Ellen	SON	G&LM, DE, BDP	
Eastern Phoebe	1	1/8-21	Bodega Head/Owl Canyon	SON	DE, DS	
Black-and-white Warbler	1 m	1/13	Willow Creek Road	SON	RROS	
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	1	1/3	Sonoma Mountain	SON	TE	
Clay-colored Sparrow	1	1/7-21	Sebastopol/Cooper St.	SON	RoM	coming to feeder
Swamp Sparrow	4+	1/13	Willow Creek Road	SON	RROS	
Harris' Sparrow	1 imm	1/19-22	Windsor /Old Redwood Hwy	SON	SL, JMc, BDP, DE	
Yellow-headed Blackbird	1 m	1/14-23	Santa Rosa/Cleveland Ave.	SON	BP, SS, mob	

Observers: Nancy Conzett, Ted Eliot, Doug Ellis, David Hofmann, Shirley Leaphart, John McDonagh, Roger Marlowe, Gerry & Lillie Mugele, Richard Merriss, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Bill Payne, Redwood Region Ornithological Society, Ruth Rudesill, Sandra Settle, Doug Shaw, Don Toms, Alan Wight.

RROS OBSERVATIONS, JANUARY 1996

Species	Number	Date	Location	County	Observers	Notes
Laysan Albatross	1	1/1-	Point Arena	MEN	DT	
Bald Eagle	1	1/1-17	Lake Hennessey	NAPA	DH, BDP, JMc	adult
Ross' Goose	1	1/14-	South launch @ Lake Mendocino	MEN	GC	
Eurasian Wigeon	2 m, f	1/1-	Hopland Field Station	MEN	CV, BK	
Tufted Duck	1 m	1/20	Golden Gate Park	S.F.	DH, BG, RM, BDP	
Oldsquaw	1	1/2	Pt. Arena Lighthouse	MEN	DT	
Oldsquaw	1	1/7	MacKerricher State Park	MEN	DT	
Oldsquaw	1	1/14	Pt. Reyes Nat'l Seashore	MRN	JW	
Black Scoter	3	1/6	Fort Funston State Park	S.F.	DH, AW	
Black Scoter	1	1/23	Marshall	MRN	BDP	
Barrow's Goldeneye	1 m	1/2	Clearlake Oaks	LAKE	JW	
Hooded Merganser	1 f	1/6	Golden Gate Park	S.F.	DH, AW	
Clapper Rail	10+	1/20	Palo Alto Baylands	S.C.L.	BG, DH, RM, BDP, NW	
Red Phalarope	1	12/21-23	Borax Lake	LAK	JW	
Laughing Gull	1	1/23	Marshall	MRN	BDP	2nd winter plumage
Glaucous Gull	1	12/30	Pt. Arena Lighthouse	MEN	DT	1st winter plumage
Black-legged Kittiwake	1	12/11	Lakeport	LAKE	JW	1st County Record
Short-eared Owl	1	1/17	Tomaes Bay	MRN	TE, BDP	
Lewis' Woodpecker	8	1/1-	N. Hopland/Eastside Road	MEN	MK, BK	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	1/9-	Ukiah	MEN	ET, DT	2nd County Record
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	1	1/6	Fort Funston State Park	S.F.	DH, AW	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	12/16	Cow Mountain	MEN	JB, AF	
Black-throated Gray Warbler	1	1/6	Golden Gate Park	S.F.	DH, AW	
American Redstart	1	12/6-8	Rodman Slough	Lake	JW	
Hermit Warbler	1	1/17	Tomaes Bay State Park	MRN	TE, BDP	
Hooded Warbler	1 m	1/6	Golden Gate Park	S.F.	DH, AW	
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	1	1/20	Palo Alto Baylands	S.C.L.	BG, BDP, NW	
White-throated Sparrow	1	1/1	Lake Hennessey	NAPA	DH, BDP	
Rustic Bunting	1	1/6	Hoopa	HMB	mob	seen since December

Observers: Jack Booth, George Chanot, Ted Eliot, Alan Falleri, Betty Groce, David Hofmann, Bob Keiffer, Malcolm King, Richard Merriss, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Dorothy Tobkin, Emily Turula, Chuck Vaughn, Jerry White, Alan Wight, Ned Wynn.

How was the birding in 1995?

Now that 1995 is past, how was the birding in Sonoma County? Memorable was the **Emperor Goose** (a first county record) that was found in December 1994 and spent the next six months at the same pond on Salmon Creek Road. In March a male **Tufted Duck** was found on the Petaluma sewage ponds and an **Eastern Phoebe** was at Owl Canyon on Bodega Head. April gave us a **Gray Jay** (a first county record) at the Gualala County Campground, and a **Solitary Sandpiper** west of Valley Ford on Highway 1. May saw an **Arctic Loon** (a first county record) discovered at Spud Point, a very angry territorial **Barred Owl** (first confirmed sighting for the county) on Stewart's Point Road, and the slightly confused **Sandhill Crane** at The Tides Restaurant in Bodega Bay. In June a very lucky few on a pelagic trip out of Bodega Bay were surprised to see a **Crested Auklet** just a few hundred yards out to sea from the Bodega Bay Marine Laboratory to provide another county first. During July a pair of **Blue Grosbeaks** were found raising a pair of young out on Tubbs Island (a first breeding record). In August an uncommon **Common Nighthawk** was located above the Pomo Campground on Willow Creek Road. September had its surprises in the elusive **Worm-eating Warbler** at Owl Canyon (a first county record), and the male **Canada Warbler** at Bodega Dunes Campground. The best bird of the month was found by a couple from New York. A **Northern Wheatear** (a first county record) made a too brief appearance at Westside County Park. October saw the arrival of an **Eastern Phoebe** at Owl Canyon, possibly the same one that was present in March, which has continued to be present into January 1996. November was represented by the presence of a **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** at Doran County Park. And finally December arrived with up to two fine **Black-and-white Warblers** seen on Willow Creek Road, one of which continues into 1996. So, there it is, 1995 has come and gone, but with many good memories to keep. All of these birds were not seen by everyone, but the possibility that they may be seen again, maybe this year, makes birding the exciting hobby that we all enjoy. Good birding in 1996.

David A. Hofmann

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:	Jeff Goodwin, 15 Arbor Court, CA 94931	578-6986
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, 129-B 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, Eldridge, CA 95431	326-2464
Kite Tales:	David A. Hofmann, 2021 Pioneer Way #47, Santa Rosa, CA 95403	546-0325

David A. Hofmann
2021 Pioneer Way #47
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

