

Kite Tales

Redwood Region Ornithological Society
Volume 31 Number 6 February 1997



COMING ATTRACTIONS

General Meeting. Thursday, February 13. Darwin Hall, Room 221. Sonoma State University at 7:30 PM. The program will be presented by Bill Syderman. Bill is a biologist at Point Reyes Bird Observatory. He will tell us about his study of the Rhinoceros Auklet that he has undertaken at Ano Nuevo State Reserve. This will be a very informative and interesting evening, you won't want to miss it.

General Meeting. Thursday, March 13. Darwin Hall, Room 221. Sonoma State University at 7:30 PM. See the March Kite Tales for details regarding the program.

Field Trip to Tule Lake/Klamath Basin Area. Saturday, February 15 to Monday, February 17. Please plan to join us for the annual President's Day trip to this wonderful area. Last year we had some unusual birds on this trip and this year could produce even more unusual ones. Each year we learn more about birding this diverse 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. Benjamin D. "Mike" Parmeter will be the leader for this trip. Contact him at (707)255-6757 if you plan to go on this trip.

Kite Tale Deadlines

Please observe the following deadlines when providing information for inclusion in the Kite Tales. The deadline for inclusion of observation (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

West Butte Road to Gray Lodge WMA, January 11, 1997

Eight determined souls braved the floods in the Central Valley to spend an overcast/foggy day birding. They were rewarded with such birds as (1) American Bittern, (4) Ferruginous Hawks, (1 adult) Peregrine Falcon, (2) Lewis' Woodpeckers, (4) Rock Wrens, and (1) Swamp Sparrow. Benjamin D. "Mike" Parmeter lead this trip.

Pied-billed Grebe	Common Goldeneye	Lewis' Woodpecker	European Starling
Eared Grebe	Lesser Scaup	Acorn Woodpecker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Dbl-crstd Cormorant	Bufflehead	Nuttall's Woodpecker	Common Yellowthroat
American Bittern	Ruddy Duck	Downy Woodpecker	Spotted Towhee
Great Blue Heron	Turkey Vulture	Northern Flicker	California Towhee
Great Egret	White-tailed Kite	Black Phoebe	Lark Sparrow
Blck-crwnd Night-heron	Northern Harrier	Say's Phoebe	Savannah Sparrow
Tundra Swan	Cooper's Hawk	Horned Lark	Lincoln's Sparrow
Grtr Wht-frntd Goose	Red-tailed Hawk	Western Scrub Jay	Swamp Sparrow
Snow Goose	Ferruginous Hawk	Yellow-billed Magpie	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Ross' Goose	American Kestrel	American Crow	White-crowned Sparrow
Canada Goose	Peregrine Falcon	Common Raven	Dark-eyed Junco
Green-winged Teal	Ring-necked Pheasant	Plain Titmouse	Red-winged Blackbird
Mallard	California Quail	Bushtit	Western Meadowlark
Northern Pintail	Common Moorhen	Rock Wren	Brewer's Blackbird
Cinnamon Teal	American Coot	Bewick's Wren	Brown-headed Cowbird
Northern Shoveler	Sandhill Crane	Marsh Wren	House Finch
Gadwall	Killdeer	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Pine Siskin
American Wigeon	Black-necked Stilt	Western Bluebird	Lesser Goldfinch
Canvasback	Ring-billed Gull	Northern Mockingbird	American Goldfinch
Redhead	Herring Gull	American Pipit	House Sparrow
Ring-necked Duck	Mourning Dove	Loggerhead Shrike	

87 species

Participants: Olive Corey, Ted Eliot, Rick LeBaudour, Richard Merriss, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Bertha Rains, Bob Rains, Miles Rains.

1996 SANTA ROSA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The 37th annual Santa Rosa Christmas Bird Count was held on December 22, 1996. Despite rain heavy at times in the morning and occasional rain in the afternoon, 144 species were found, and a total of 30,191 birds were seen or heard. While shorebird numbers were low, anseriformes (swans, geese, and ducks) were in good numbers. Highlights included a Tundra Swan, a Snow Goose, (3) Blue-winged Teal, (2) Eurasian Wigeon, (3) Hooded Mergansers, (3) Peregrine Falcons, (1) Prairie Falcon, (3) Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Swamp Sparrow, (8) Red Crossbills, and (2) Evening Grosbeaks. ————— Douglas Ellis

Red-throated Loon-----	4	Prairie Falcon-----	1	Brown Creeper-----	9
Pied-billed Grebe-----	85	Ring-necked Pheasant-----	4	Bewick's Wren-----	23
Horned Grebe-----	6	Wild Turkey-----	13	Winter Wren-----	4
Eared Grebe-----	7	California Quail-----	177	Marsh Wren-----	13
Western Grebe-----	8	Mountain Quail-----	2	Golden-crowned Kinglet-----	23
Clark's Grebe-----	1	Virginia Rail-----	3	Ruby-crowned Kinglet-----	245
White Pelican-----	26	Sora-----	1	Western Bluebird-----	231
Double-crested Cormorant-----	235	Common Moorhen-----	7	Hermit Thrush-----	32
Great Blue Heron-----	53	American Coot-----	2149	American Robin-----	3533
Great Egret-----	150	Killdeer-----	56	Varied Thrush-----	158
Snowy Egret-----	220	American Avocet-----	8	Wrentit-----	14
Cattle Egret-----	45	Greater Yellowlegs-----	66	Northern Mockingbird-----	66
Green Heron-----	5	Western Sandpiper-----	15	California Thrasher-----	5
Black-crowned Night-heron-----	4	Dunlin-----	3	American Pipit-----	298
Tundra Swan-----	1	peep sp.-----	1	Cedar Waxwing-----	133
Snow Goose-----	1	Mew Gull-----	349	Loggerhead Shrike-----	8
Canada Goose-----	423	Ring-billed Gull-----	920	European Starling-----	4200
Wood Duck-----	14	California Gull-----	665	Hutton's Vireo-----	8
Green-winged Teal-----	67	Herring Gull-----	2	Orange-crowned Warbler-----	1
Mallard-----	798	Glaucous-winged Gull-----	8	Yellow-rumped Warbler-----	245
Northern Pintail-----	37	gull sp.-----	373	Townsend's Warbler-----	12
Blue-winged Teal-----	3	Rock Dove-----	245	Hermit Warbler-----	1
Cinnamon Teal-----	7	Band-tailed Pigeon-----	93	Spotted Towhee-----	95
Northern Shoveler-----	277	Mourning Dove-----	138	California Towhee-----	364
Gadwall-----	34	Barn Owl-----	3	Rufous-crowned Sparrow-----	95
Eurasian Wigeon-----	2	Western Screech-owl-----	5	Lark Sparrow-----	26
American Wigeon-----	484	Great Horned Owl-----	9	Savannah Sparrow-----	51
Canvasback-----	32	Northern Pygmy-owl-----	7	Fox Sparrow-----	35
Ring-necked Duck-----	303	Spotted Owl-----	3	Song Sparrow-----	181
Lesser Scaup-----	11	Northern Saw-whet Owl-----	2	Lincoln's Sparrow-----	14
scaup sp.-----	1	Anna's Hummingbird-----	64	Swamp Sparrow-----	1
Common Goldeneye-----	1	Belted Kingfisher-----	15	White-throated Sparrow-----	3
Bufflehead-----	149	Acorn Woodpecker-----	67	Golden-crowned Sparrow-----	535
Hooded Merganser-----	3	Red-breasted Sapsucker-----	2	White-crowned Sparrow-----	480
Common Merganser-----	225	Nuttall's Woodpecker-----	32	sparrow sp.-----	166
Ruddy Duck-----	1240	Downy Woodpecker-----	4	Dark-eyed Junco-----	785
Turkey Vulture-----	156	Hairy Woodpecker-----	1	Red-winged Blackbird-----	742
Osprey-----	1	Northern Flicker-----	135	Western Meadowlark-----	763
White-tailed Kite-----	41	Pileated Woodpecker-----	2	Brewer's Blackbird-----	1397
Northern Harrier-----	10	Black Phoebe-----	113	Brown-headed Cowbird-----	11
Sharp-shinned Hawk-----	8	Say's Phoebe-----	18	blackbird sp.-----	850
Cooper's Hawk-----	2	Steller's Jay-----	24	Purple Finch-----	13
accipiter sp.-----	2	Western Scrub Jay-----	215	House Finch-----	287
Red-shouldered Hawk-----	44	American Crow-----	1479	Red Crossbill-----	8
Red-tailed Hawk-----	87	Common Raven-----	49	Pine Siskin-----	39
Ferruginous Hawk-----	2	Chestnut-backed Chickadee-----	95	Lesser Goldfinch-----	695
Golden Eagle-----	3	Plain Titmouse-----	92	American Goldfinch-----	206
American Kestrel-----	52	Bushtit-----	271	Evening Grosbeak-----	2
Merlin-----	2	Red-breasted Nuthatch-----	3	House Sparrow-----	115
Peregrine Falcon-----	3	White-breasted Nuthatch-----	21	-----	-----

Parties: 13-15
Participants: 29

Hours on foot: 41.5
Miles on foot: 44.5

Hours by car: 41
Miles by car: 426

Owling hours: 4
Owling miles: 23

Participants: Betty Burrige, Ken Burton, Carolyn Dixon, Lew Edmondson, Marilyn Edmondson, Ted Eliot, Douglas Ellis, Robert Evans, Eleanor Guilford, Rick LeBaudour, Bill Lenarz, Richard Merriss, Ian Morrison, Gerry Mugele, Mike Nelligan, Dan Nelson, Wini Nelson, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Linda Petrulias, Bertha Rains, Bob Rains, Ruth Rudesill, Claire Shurvinton, Wayne Tillay, Karen Wagner, Corrine Williams, Dan Wilson, Ken Wilson.

RROS OBSERVATIONS, JANUARY 1997 (SONOMA COUNTY)

Species	Number	Date	Location	County	Observers	Notes
Red-necked Grebe	2	1/6	Between jetties/Bodega Harbor	SON	DE, TE, BDP	
American Bittern	1	1/18	Schollenberger Park/Petaluma	SON	DE, TE, BDP	
Cattle Egret	25+	1/9-16	Santa Rosa Creek X Willowside Rd	SON	TE, DH	
White-fronted Goose	8	1/16	Asti sewer ponds	SON	NW	
Ross' Goose	1	present	Bridgehaven	SON	MOB	
Emperor Goose	1	present	Bodega Harbor/Westside Park	SON	MOB	since Dec. 15, 1996
Blue-winged Teal	3+	12/22-1/9	College Ave sewage pond	SON	TE, MOB	male & female
Blue-winged Teal	2	1/18	Schollenberger Park/Petaluma	SON	DE, TE, BDP	males
Eurasian Wigeon	2	1/6	Bodega Harbor	SON	DE, TE, BDP	male
Eurasian Wigeon	1	1/18	Bodega Harbor	SON	DE, TE, BDP	male
Hooded Merganser	3	1/9	Crane Canyon Road	SON	RL	
Bald Eagle	1	1/5	Bayhill Road	SON	AW, DN	adult
Bald Eagle	1	1/18	Salmon Creek X Hwy 1	SON	DE, TE, BDP	immature plumage
Northern Goshawk	1	12/29	south of Goat Rock	SON	TE, MD, RL	adult
Red-tailed Hawk	1	1/18	Petaluma Hill Rd./Petaluma	SON	TB	leucistic plumage
Ferruginous Hawk	1	1/5	Valley Ford	SON	AW	immature plumage
Ferruginous Hawk	1	1/7	Skagg's Island Road	SON	RL	
Golden Eagle	1	1/18	Bodega	SON	DE, TE, BDP	adult
Golden Eagle	2	1/18	Vallejo's adobe	SON	RL	both immatures
Golden Eagle	1	1/19	Ramal Road	SON	TE	immature plumage
Merlin	1	1/4	Penngrove	SON	RL	
Merlin	1	1/9	Crane Canyon Road	SON	RL	
Merlin	1	1/18	Ramal Road	SON	DE	
Peregrine Falcon	1	12/29	south of Goat Rock	SON	TE, MD, RL	adult
Prairie Falcon	1	1/7	Skagg's Island Road	SON	RL	
Clapper Rail	1	1/12	Hudeman's Slough	SON	BDP	heard calling
Common Moorhen	1	1/6-19	Schollenberger Park/Petaluma	SON	DE, TE, BDP, MOB	
Red Knot	12	1/24-29	Doran County Park	SON	DH	
Glaucous Gull	1	12/29	south of Goat Rock	SON	TE, MD, RL	1st winter plumage
Glaucous Gull	1	1/6	Bodega Harbor	SON	DE, TE, BDP	1st winter plumage
Marbled Murrelet	10	1/6	Bodega Head State Park	SON	DE, TE, BDP	
Ancient Murrelet	3	1/6	Bodega Head State Park	SON	DE, TE, BDP	
Band-tailed Pigeon	3	1/8	Liberty Glen Campground	SON	NW	
Band-tailed Pigeon	80+	1/12	Cavedale Road	SON	AW	
Short-eared Owl	2	1/9	Sebastopol/Cooper Road	SON	KM	
Short-eared Owl	5	1/11	Schollenberger Park/Petaluma	SON	AW	
Short-eared Owl	1	1/20	Bridgehaven	SON	RL	
Allen's Hummingbird	1	1/11 & 29	Bodega Dunes Campground	SON	DH	male
Tree Swallow	4	1/13	Ramal Road	SON	RL	
Tree Swallow	20	1/18	Ramal Road	SON	DE	
Barn Swallow	1	1/6	Bodega Head/Hole-in-the-Head	SON	DE, TE, BDP	
Rock Wren	1	12/30	Petaluma	SON	AW	
Northern Waterthrush	1	1/6	Bodega Bay/rail ponds	SON	DE, TE, BDP	since Oct. 23, 1996
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	1/6-24	Bodega Bay/Diekman's Store	SON	DE, TE, DH, BDP	cellata race
Red Crossbill	1	1/23	Penngrove	SON	RL	
Evening Grosbeak	12	1/9	Willowside Rd X Santa Rosa Creek	SON	DH	

Observers: Terry Babineux, Mark Debacker, Douglas Ellis, Ted Eliot, David Hofmann, Rick LeBaudour, Ken Murphy, Dan Nelson, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Alan Wight, Ned Wynn, Many Observers.

RROS OBSERVATIONS, JANUARY 1997

Species	Number	Date	Location	County	Observers	Notes
Laysan Albatross	1	present	Pt. Arena	MEN	MOB	
Snow Goose	1	12/28-1/5	Garcia River Flats	MEN	DT	
Ross' Goose	2	1/5	Garcia River Flats	MEN	DT	
Blue-winged Teal	1	1/23	Sacramento NWR	GLN	RL	male
Eurasian Wigeon	1	12/28-1/5	Garcia River Flats	MEN	DT	
Eurasian Wigeon	2	1/16	Inverness	MRN	RL	
Barrow's Goldeneye	6	1/10	S.F. Bay/off San Rafael shore	MRN	DT	
Bald Eagle	1	1/5-7	Lake Hennessey	NAPA	DE, BDP, RL	adult
Bald Eagle	2	1/7	Sacramento NWR	GLN	RL	

RRROS OBSERVATIONS, JANUARY 1997 CONT'D

Bald Eagle	1	1/9	Hopland Field Station	MEN	CV, BK	immature plumage
Rough-legged Hawk	1	12/31	Montezuma Hills	SOL	DE, SE	
Golden Eagle	1	12/31	Montezuma Hills	SOL	DE, SE	immature plumage
Peregrine Falcon	1	1/5	Lake Hennessey	NAPA	DE, BDP	<i>anatum</i> race
Prairie Falcon	1	12/31	Montezuma Hills	SOL	DE, SE	
Rock Sandpiper	1	1/8	MacKerricher State Park	MEN	DT	
Glaucous Gull	1	12/28	near Pt. Arena Lighthouse	MEN	DT	
Glaucous Gull	1	1/7	MacKerricher State Park	MEN	DT	
Ancient Murrelet	15	12/24	MacKerricher State Park	MEN	DT	
Burrowing Owl	3	12/31	Montezuma Hills	SOL	DE, SE	
Burrowing Owl	1	present	Hopland Field Station	MEN	CV, BK	
Costa's Hummingbird	1	12/22	Willits	MEN	DT	imm. @ feeder
Rock Wren	4	1/5	Lake Hennessey	NAPA	DE, BDP	
Phainopepla	1	1/16-17	Emerson St./Napa	NAPA	BDP	female
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	1/18	MacKerricher State Park	MEN	DT	
Black-and-White Warbler	1	12/27	near Pt. Arena	MEN	DT	
Swamp Sparrow	2	1/5	Lake Hennessey	NAPA	DE, BDP	
White-throated Sparrow	1	1/2-13	Emerson St./Napa	NAPA	BDP	
White-throated Sparrow	1	present	Hopland Field Station	MEN	CV, BK	
Cassin's Finch	1	1/4	Ukiah	MEN	CV, PS	
Red Crossbill	3	1/2	Emerson St./Napa	NAPA	BDP	
Evening Grosbeak	8	1/2	Emerson St./Napa	NAPA	BDP	

Observers: Douglas Ellis, Sandy Etehell, Bob Keiffer, Rick LeBaudour, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Chuck Vaughn, Park Steiner, Dorothy Tobkin, Many Observers.

HOW WAS THE BIRDING IN 1996?

How good was the birding in Sonoma County in 1996? January began the year with excitement being provided by several "good" birds. The **Eastern Phoebe** at Owl Canyon and the **Black-and-White Warbler** on Willow Creek Road were hold-overs from December. The **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** in Glen Ellen, the **Clay-colored Sparrow** in Sebastopol, the **Harris's Sparrow** in Larkfield, and the "K-Mart" **Yellow-headed Blackbird** kept our interest high most of the month. The outstanding discovery of the month was the **Broad-billed Hummingbird** (first county record) coming to a feeder in Santa Rosa. In February a **Yellow-billed Magpie** was found in Healdsburg. March was uneventful. April provided a male **Tufted Duck** at the Petaluma sewage ponds, and a **Calliope Hummingbird** (second county record) in Penngrove. In May a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was seen in Owl Canyon. Another **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at a Sebastopol feeder in June, and a **Bobolink** was at Timber Cove. The real surprise of the month was a **Brown Thrasher** thrashing in front of Owl Canyon (first county record). A July pelagic trip to the Cordell Banks lured a **Laysan Albatross** into Sonoma County for a second county record. Most disappointing was the news that a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** killed itself on a window in Bodega in July. In August a **Least Tern** was at Doran County Park. September was the month birders dream of. A **Tri-colored Heron** adult (second county record), a **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** and a **Ruff** were found at Doran County Park. A **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen on Hwy 37. A **Hammond's Flycatcher** (first county record), a **Prothonotary Warbler**, and a **Canada Warbler** were located at Bodega Head. The **Cassin's Finch** that was found at Russian Gulch State Beach was a first for the county. A **Virginia's Warbler** in Jenner was a remarkable find considering that it was heard by a birder while he was driving on Hwy 1. The two prize birds of the month though have to be the **Mongolian Plover** at Doran County Park (first county record), and the **Northern Wheatear** (second county record) found in Sebastopol. In October a **Stilt Sandpiper** was seen at Doran. November gave us an immature **Northern Shrike** at Westside County Park, and a **Harris' Sparrow** in Healdsburg. And finally December closed the year with an **Emperor Goose** (second county record) at Westside County Park, and a **Northern Goshawk** near Goat Rock. Many of the above birds were seen by only a few birders, but that's O.K., the rest of us can hope to see these birds in 1997 or find our own first county records. I think there are at least 300 species that haven't been seen yet.

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.

1996-1997 Officers

President:	Jeff Goodwin, 3768 Mocha Lane, Santa Rosa, CA 95403	578-6986
Vice-President:	Bertha Rains 450A Las Casitas, Santa Rosa, CA 95403	528-6785
Secretary:	Wini Nelson, 400 Sunnyslope Avenue, Petuluma, CA 94952	762-6152
Treasurer:	Mike Nelligan, 124 Wikiup Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95403	576-1475

1996-1997 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

