

Kite Tales

Redwood Region Ornithological Society

Volume 31 Number 7

March 1997



COMING ATTRACTIONS

General Meeting. Thursday, March 13. Darwin Hall, Room 221. Sonoma State University at 7:30 PM. The program will be presented by Gary Page, director of Coastal and Estuarine Research at PRBO. He has conducted the Pacific Flyway Study that involved the spring and fall census of shorebirds in San Francisco Bay. He has studied Snowy Plovers for over 25 years, and he has been a leader in obtaining endangered status for the Snowy Plover. He will present progress on the study of the use of barriers to protect Snowy Plover nests from Ravens and other predators.

General Meeting. Thursday, April 10. Darwin Hall, Room 221. Sonoma State University at 7:30 PM. See the April Kite Tales for details regarding the program.

Field Trip to Bodega Bay/Salmon Creek Road. Saturday, March 15. We will meet at 8:00 AM in front of the "rail ponds" in Bodega Bay. There will be plenty of birds to see at this time of year at this always exciting area in Sonoma County. Bodega Bay combined with Salmon Creek Road will give us a wide range of habitats to bird during the beginning of the spring migration. Benjamin D. "Mike" Parmeter will be the leader for this trip.

Field Trip to Mitchell Canyon/Contra Costa County. Saturday, April 19. We will meet at the Mitchell Canyon trailhead parking lot at 8:30 AM. Mitchell Canyon is located on the north side of Mt. Diablo. To get there take 680 to Walnut Creek and exit on Ygnacio Valley Road east. (During the past couple of years because of freeway construction in the Walnut Creek area it has been necessary to take the Livorna Road exit further south and come back on the northbound lanes to turn onto Ygnacio Valley Road.) Go 7.7 miles and turn south on Clayton Road. Go 1 mile and turn right onto Mitchell Canyon Road. The trailhead parking lot is at the end of this road. There is a small parking fee. Bring lunch and water. The leader is Alan Wight. For further details or changes see the April Kite Tales.

Field Trip to Pine Flat Road. May. Further details will be in the April Kite Tales.

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

Tule Lake NWR/Klamath Basin, February 15-17, 1997

We had a fabulous trip up to the Klamath Basin! The weather was exceptionally good (tee-shirt warm on Saturday; cool and partially cloudy the last two days) and we had practically no rain/snow. Snow level was high and there was lots of water around. We even drove up to Crater Lake! On Saturday evening, we were blessed with one of the most beautiful sunsets ever seen with the orange-pink clouds over Mt. Shasta and silhouetted flying geese.

The birds were very cooperative - we had 112 species. And we saw some good ones - an adult Northern Shrike along Hill Road in Tule Lake NWR; several Eurasian Wigeon at both refuges; 111 Bald Eagles (thanks to Rick for keeping count!); 6 Golden Eagles; 6 Prairie Falcons; an adult Northern Goshawk at Upper Klamath (seen by only a few unfortunately); four species of owls (thanks to Doug for the Great Gray and Great Horned Owls calling at Ft. Klamath!); 100,000+ geese and swans in flocks of thousands; and the best bird was the last one seen - at least three Bohemian Waxwings with a flock of Cedar Waxwings at the Lava Beds campground!

Here is the complete bird list (bold species are rare and unusual for the time of year/location):

Ruth Rudesill

Pied-billed Grebe	Hooded Merganser	Great Gray Owl	Winter Wren
Horned Grebe	Common Merganser	Short-eared Owl	Marsh Wren
Eared Grebe	Ruddy Duck	Belted Kingfisher	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Clark's Grebe	Bald Eagle	sapsucker, sp.	Western Bluebird
Double-crstd Cormorant	Northern Harrier	Downy Woodpecker	Townsend's Solitaire
Great Blue Heron	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Hairy Woodpecker	American Robin
Great Egret	Northern Goshawk	White-hded Woodpecker	Varied Thrush
Blck-crwnd Night Heron	Red-tailed Hawk	Northern Flicker	Bohemian Waxwing
Tundra Swan	Ferruginous Hawk	Pileated Woodpecker	Cedar Waxwing
Grtr White-frnted Goose	Rough-legged Hawk	Say's Phoebe	Northern Shrike
Snw Goose (1 blue form)	Golden Eagle	Horned Lark	Loggerhead Shrike
Ross' Goose	American Kestrel	Tree Swallow	European Starling
Canada Goose	Prairie Falcon	Gray Jay	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Green-winged Teal	Ring-necked Pheasant	Steller's Jay	Spotted Towhee
Mallard	California Quail	Western Scrub Jay	California Towhee
Northern Pintail	American Coot	Clark's Nutcracker	Song Sparrow
Cinnamon Teal	Killdeer	Black-billed Magpie	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Northern Shoveler	Greater Yellowlegs	Common Raven	White-crowned Sparrow
Gadwall	Dunlin	Mountain Chickadee	Dark-eyed Junco
Eurasian Wigeon	Long-billed Dowitcher	Plain Titmouse	Red-winged Blackbird
American Wigeon	Ring-billed Gull	Bushtit	Tri-colored Blackbird
Canvasback	California Gull	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Western Meadowlark
Redhead	Herring Gull	White-breasted Nuthatch	Brewer's Blackbird
Ring-necked Duck	Glaucous-winged Gull	Pygmy Nuthatch	House Finch
Lesser Scaup	Rock Dove	Brown Creeper	Red Crossbill
Common Goldeneye	Mourning Dove	Rock Wren	Evening Grosbeak
Barrow's Goldeneye	Barn Owl	Canyon Wren	House Sparrow
Bufflehead	Great Horned Owl	Bewick's Wren	Sandhill Crane

Participants: Rich Bertoli, Lew and Marilyn Edmondson, Ted Eliot, Doug Ellis, Rick LeBaudour, John O'Connell, Mike Parmeter, Ruth Rudesill, and Lang Stevenson.

RROS OBSERVATIONS, FEBRUARY 1997 (SONOMA COUNTY)

Species	Number	Date	Location	County	Observers	Notes
American Bittern	1	2/16	Shollenberger Park	SON	NW, DC, BC	
Green Heron	1	2/6	Sebastopol/Laguna de Santa Rosa	SON	TE	
Grtr White-fronted Goose	30	1/29	Tubb's Island	SON	TE	
Emperor Goose	1	present	Bodega Harbor/Westside Cty Pk	SON	MOB	
Wood Duck	18	2/8	Warm Springs Dam	SON	NW	
Redhead	1	1/30	Asti Sewer Ponds	SON	NW	male
Greater Scaup	20+	2/16	Shollenberger Park	SON	NW, DC, BC	
Black Scoter	2	2/3	Duncan's Landing	SON	TE	
Hooded Merganser	2	2/1	Canon Lane Ponds	SON	NW	
Golden Eagle	1	2/16	Shollenberger Park	SON	NW, DC, BC	adult
Ferruginous Hawk	1	2/2	Petaluma	SON	AW, NW	
Ferruginous Hawk	1	2/3	Salmon Creek Road	SON	TE	
Merlin	1	1/29	Healdsburg	SON	DR, LR	
Sora	1	2/16	Shollenberger Park	SON	NW, DC, BC	
Common Moorhen	4	2/16	Shollenberger Park	SON	NW, DC, BC	
Short-eared Owl	2	2/9	Schollenberger Park	SON	NW, DC, BC	
Allen's Hummingbird	2	2/6	Bodega Bay/rail ponds	SON	TE	
Red-breasted Sapsucker	1	2/8	Healdsburg	SON	DR, LR	
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	1	1/29	Healdsburg	SON	DR, LR	unusually early

Observers: Bruce Cronk, Drew Cronk, Ted Eliot, Don Richert, LaVerne Richert, Alan Wight, Ned Wynn, Many Observers.

SPRING MIGRATION ARRIVAL DATES

As the spring migration begins, the editor would like know what the earliest arrival dates will be for our returning summer birds. Please call David Hofmann at 546-0325 or Ned Wynn at 431-8412 to report your first sightings of these birds. Please only report observations that are within Sonoma County. Report species, number, date, location, and your name. The earliest record of each species will be included in the May Kite Tales.

Common Poorwill	Purple Martin	Solitary Vireo	Yellow-breasted Chat
Vaux's Swift	Violet-green Swallow	Warbling Vireo	Western Tanager
Allen's Hummingbird	No. Rough-winged Swallow	Nashville Warbler	Black-headed Grosbeak
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Cliff Swallow	Yellow Warbler	Lazuli Bunting
Western Wood-Pewee	Barn Swallow	Black-throated Gray Warbler	Chipping Sparrow
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	House Wren	Hermit Warbler	Grasshopper Sparrow
Ash-throated Flycatcher	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	MacGillivray's Warbler	Hooded Oriole
Western Kingbird	Swainson's Thrush	Wilson's Warbler	Bullock's Oriole

RROS OBSERVATIONS, FEBRUARY 1997

Species	Number	Date	Location	County	Observers	Notes
White-fronted Goose	5-35	present	Garcia Flats	MEN	DT	
Emperor Goose	1	2/14	Garcia Flats	MEN	DT	
Wood Duck	6	2/2	Olema Creek	MAR	NW, AW	
Blue-winged Teal	2	2/1	Olema Creek	MAR	RS, AW, NW	
Cinnamon Teal	15	2/2	Olema Creek	MAR	AW, NW	
Greater Scaup	1	2/2	Stafford Lake	MAR	AW, NW	
King Eider	1	1/30-present	Pt. Reyes/Chimney Rock	MAR	MOB	female
Harlequin Duck	3	1/30-2/2	Pt. Reyes/near Chimney Rock	MAR	TE, AW, NW, MOB	2m, 1f
Oldsquaw	1	1/25	MacKerricher State Park	MEN	DT	
Oldsquaw	2	1/30-2/2	Pt. Reyes/Fish Docks	MAR	MOB	1m, 1f
Rock Sandpiper	1	1/19-2/6	Glass Beach to MacKerricher S.P.	MEN	DT	
Black-legged Kittiwake	1	2/6	MacKerricher State Park	MEN	DT	
Nashville Warbler	1	1/20-present	Fort Bragg/DT's yard	MEN	DT	

Observers: Ted Eliot, Richard Stallcup, Dorothy Tobkin, Alan Wight, Ned Wynn, Many Observers.

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

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