

# Kite Tales

Redwood Region Ornithological Society  
Volume 31 Number 8 April 1997



## COMING ATTRACTIONS

**General Meeting.** Thursday, April 10. Darwin Hall, Room 221. Sonoma State University at 7:30 PM. The program will be given by Mike Parmeter on a birding trip to Columbia. Mike has traveled worldwide in his search for birds. Among his many accomplishments, he co-authored "Birds of Sonoma County California".

**General Meeting.** Thursday, May 15. Sugarloaf Ridge State Park at 6:00 PM. We will meet at the Group Campground (end of the road past the stables). The potluck dinner will begin at 6:00 PM, followed by the short business meeting, and then the owl/poorwill walk. Comfortable shoes, a warm coat, and a flashlight are recommended if you wish to go on the owl/poorwill walk. The parking fee is \$5.00 per vehicle, so carpool if you can. **Note the change of meeting date from 2nd Thursday to 3rd Thursday of the month.**

**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 farther 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.

**Field Trip to Pine Flat Road.** Saturday, May 17. We will meet at the first bridge on Pine Flat Road off Hwy 129. Details will be in the May Kite Tales.

## MILESTONE DEPARTMENT

RROS member **Richard Irvin** of Albion found his **3000th life bird** in Japan on Kyushu Island. It was a flock of **Asian Martins**. He attempted to find the Siberian Accentor in Hailey, Idaho, but missed it. On this trip though he did see Rosy Finches, Gyrfalcon, Great Gray Owl, Snowy Owl, King Eider (Oregon), Bohemian Waxwing, and Northern Shrike. He is now on his way to Panama, and more milestones.

## Kite Tale 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/Salmon Creek Road, March 15, 1997

Nineteen birders joined trip leader Mike Parmeter to see what birds could be found on this fine day. The birds of note seen were the Marbled Murrelets off of Bodega Head, the Solitary Vireo found in the willows at Campbell Cove, the Red-necked Grebes seen between the jetties, the Red-breasted Sapsucker behind the "rail ponds", and the Emperor Goose that has spent all winter at the Westside County Park boat ramp.

David A. Hofmann

Red-throated Loon	White-winged Scoter	Least Sandpiper	Bewick's Wren
Pacific Loon	Common Goldeneye	Dunlin	Winter Wren
Common Loon	Bufflehead	Long-billed Dowitcher	Marsh Wren
Pied-billed Grebe	Red-breasted Merganser	Mew Gull	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Horned Grebe	Ruddy Duck	Ring-billed Gull	Hermit Thrush
Red-necked Grebe	Turkey Vulture	California Gull	American Robin
Eared Grebe	Northern Harrier	Western Gull	American Pipit
Western Grebe	Red-tailed Hawk	Glaucous-winged Gull	European Starling
Dbl-crested Cormorant	California Quail	Forster's Tern	Solitary Vireo
Brandt's Cormorant	Virginia Rail	Common Murre	Hutton's Vireo
Pelagic Cormorant	American Coot	Marbled Murrelet	Yllw-rumpd Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Black-bellied Plover	Rock Dove	California Towhee
Great Egret	Snowy Plover	Great Horned Owl	Savannah Sparrow
Snowy Egret	Semipalmated Plover	Anna's Hummingbird	Fox Sparrow
Blck-crwnd Night-heron	Killdeer	Allen's Hummingbird	Song Sparrow
Emperor Goose	American Black Oystercatcher	Belted Kingfisher	Gldn-crwnd Sparrow
Brant	Willet	Red-breasted Sapsucker	Wht-crwnd Sparrow
Mallard	Whimbrel	Hairy Woodpecker	Red-wngd Blackbird
Northern Shoveler	Marbled Godwit	Black Phoebe	Western Meadowlark
Gadwall	Ruddy Turnstone	Western Scrub Jay	Brewer's Blackbird
American Wigeon	Black Turnstone	American Crow	House Finch
Greater Scaup	Surfbird	Common Raven	Lesser Goldfinch
Lesser Scaup	Sanderling	Chstnt-bckd Chickadee	House Sparrow
Surf Scoter	Western Sandpiper	Bushtit	

95 species

Participants: Linda Allen, Betty Burrige, Nancy Conzett, Drew Cronk, Doug Ellis, Mary Finn, David Hofmann, Louise Johnson, Richard Merriss, Gerry Mugele, Mike Parmeter, Linda Petruvias, Bertha Rains, Bob Rains, Rich Rehngren, Carol Sunlight, Michael Stevenson, Wayne Tillay, Mike Windsor, and Ned Wynn.

## SPRING ARRIVALS

Please do not forget to report your early arrival dates for Sonoma County birds. Call or send your reports to Ned Wynn. The results will be included in the May Kite Tales.

## RROS OBSERVATIONS, MARCH 1997 (SONOMA COUNTY)

Species	Number	Date	Location	County	Observers	Notes
Emperor Goose	1	present	Bodega Harbor/Westside Cty Pk	SON	MOB	
Eurasian Wigeon	1	3/27	Bodega Farm Pond	SON	DH	male
Barrow's Goldeneye	1	3/8	Petaluma River mouth	SON	AW, NW	imm. male
Peregrine Falcon	1	3/7	Bodega Bay-Doran Beach	SON	TE	
Merlin	1	3/12	Petaluma/Schollenberger Park	SON	RR	
Golden Eagle	1	3/11	Rohnert Park	SON	AW	adult
Rough-legged Hawk	1	3/8	Hwy 37 near Sears Point	SON	AW, NW	
Red Knot	1	3/7	Bodega Bay/Spud Point	SON	TE	
Glaucous Gull	2	3/8	Petaluma/Shollenberger Park	SON	AW, NW	
Burrowing Owl	2	present	Petaluma/Shollenberger Park	SON	AW, RR, MOB	
Short-eared Owl	1	2/24	Petaluma/Shollenberger Park	SON	TE	
Allen's Hummingbird	1	3/8	Canon Lane	SON	AW, NW	
Violet-green Swallow	1	3/8	Hudeman Slough	SON	AW, NW	early arrival
Cliff Swallow	1	3/14	Willow Creek Road	SON	TE	early arrival
Barn Swallow	1	3/4	Sebastopol Community Center	SON	BG	early arrival
Barn Swallow	1	3/5	Paradise Ridge Winery	SON	PL, KN	early arrival
Barn Swallow	3	3/8	Hudeman Slough	SON	AW, NW	early arrival
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	3	3/21	Wallace Creek Road	SON	NW	early arrival
Warbling Vireo	1	3/21	Wallace Creek Road	SON	NW	early arrival
Bullock's Oriole	2	3/19	Spring Lake	SON	JT, JiT	early arrival
White-throated Sparrow	3	present	Kenwood	SON	RR	now in alt. plumage

Observers: Betty Groce, Ted Eliot, David Hofmann, Peter Leveque, Karen Nagel, Ruth Rudesill, Jean Tonascia, Jim Tonascia, Alan Wight, Ned Wynn, Many Observers.

## RROS OBSERVATIONS, MARCH 1997

Species	Number	Date	Location	County	Observers	Notes
Rock Wren	1	3/22	Las Galinas Ponds	MRN	NW, BC	

Observers: Bruce Cronk, Ned Wynn.

## DOES THE MANDARIN DUCK COUNT

The Mandarin Duck, a native of Asia, is one of the flashiest ducks in the world. It is not necessary to make a trip to Japan or China to see this bird however, for some have been released or escaped from zoos or private collections and are living in the wild in Sonoma County. The town of Sonoma and the area about Chalk Hill Road near Healdsburg are locations where their presence has been reported in the "Sonoma County Breeding Bird Atlas."

This is not entirely good news, for as we humans have learned from the ill-advised introductions of the European Starling, House Sparrow, and Rock Dove, native species can suffer and the balance of nature can be upset by the intrusion of these newcomers. The Mandarin Duck is a close relative of the Wood Duck and may well place significant competitive pressures on that and other native species.

Before any judgments are made, data must first be gathered to determine the status and viability of this new population.

The American Ornithological Union (AOU) which, among other duties, monitors bird populations has contacted RROS member Betty Burrige for information on this bird. The AOU wants to make a determination whether to list the Mandarin Duck as an introduced species with a viable population living in the wild without human assistance, but they need more information.

### How RROS members can help!

Please write a brief report on any Mandarin Duck sightings starting immediately. Include your name and address, the date and time of the sighting, the number of adult birds by gender, the number of young, the exact location, and what the birds were doing. Especially note breeding behaviors, and nest box use versus use of natural holes in trees. Records from previous years are also sought.

If you have questions or wish to record sightings on a form, contact Betty Burrige at (707)527-0225. Her mailing address is: 1653 Arroyo Sierra, Santa Rosa, CA 95404.

### 1997-1998 Officer Nominations

The nominating committee has made the following nominations for the 1997-1998 year:

President	Bertha Rains
Vice-President	Mike Nelligan
Secretary	Ruth Rudesill
Treasurer	Betty Burrige

The election of officers will occur at the April meeting. Nominations from the floor may be made at that time.

## UPCOMING PELAGIC TRIPS

<u>Date</u>		<u>Cost</u>
4/25 (Fri)	Mollymawk Offshore Adventures out of Bodega Bay to beyond Cordell Bank and Bodega Canyon on the New Sea Angler.	\$150.00
5/9 (Fri)	Mollymawk Offshore Adventures out of Bodega Bay to beyond Cordell Bank and Bodega Canyon on the New Sea Angler.	\$150.00
6/8 (Sun)	Mollymawk Offshore Adventures out of Bodega Bay to Cordell Bank on the New Sea Angler.	\$65.00
6/28 (Sat)	Shearwater Journeys out of Bodega Bay to Cordell Bank.	\$ ?
7/21 (Mon)	Mollymawk Offshore Adventures out of Bodega Bay to beyond Cordell Bank and Bodega Canyon on the New Sea Angler.	\$85.00
7/26 (Sat)	Shearwater Journeys out of Bodega Bay to Cordell Bank.	\$ ?
7/27 (Sun)	Mollymawk Offshore Adventures out of Bodega Bay to beyond Cordell Bank and Bodega Canyon on the New Sea Angler.	\$85.00
8/4 (Mon)	Mollymawk Offshore Adventures out of Bodega Bay to Cordell Bank on the New Sea Angler.	\$65.00
8/10 (Sun)	Mollymawk Offshore Adventures out of Bodega Bay to beyond Cordell Bank and Bodega Canyon on the New Sea Angler.	\$85.00
8/15 (Fri)	Mollymawk Offshore Adventures out of Bodega Bay to Cordell Bank on the New Sea Angler.	\$65.00
8/23 (Sat)	Shearwater Journeys out of Bodega Bay to Cordell Bank.	\$ ?
8/29 (Fri)	Mollymawk Offshore Adventures out of Bodega Bay to beyond Cordell Bank and Bodega Canyon on the New Sea Angler.	\$85.00
9/14 (Sun)	Mollymawk Offshore Adventures out of Bodega Bay to offshore Sonoma County (exclusive) on the New Sea Angler.	\$65.00

Mollymawk Offshore Adventures  
P.O. Box 821  
Bodega Bay, CA 94923

(707)762-5167 Dan Nelson

Shearwater Journeys  
P.O. Box 190  
Hollister, CA 95024

(408)637-8527 Debbie Shearwater

**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, Petaluma, 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

