

Kite Tales

Redwood Region Ornithological Society



Volume 32 Number 6

February 1998

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Thursday February 12th - GENERAL MEETING Darwin Hall Room 221 Sonoma State University at 7:30 pm

The program will be "White and Weird" presented by Rich Stallcup. Rich is a highly respected birder and nature trip leader with an enviable and well deserved reputation for this exceptional bird identification skills. He will be presenting his remarkable collection of albinotic bird slides to us, along with his well-known witty repartee. You can expect a lively and highly entertaining discussion of these birds, and their unique place in nature. Don't miss this program!

Saturday February 14th FIELD TRIP to GREY LODGE area meet at 9:00 am at the intersection of West Butte Road and Pass Road in Sutter County. Leader will probably be Mike Parmeter. Call Mike with any questions 255-6757.

Saturday/Sunday March 14-15th FIELD TRIP to LASSEN COUNTY to look for SAGE GROUSE. Weather pending - we will actually trek for the grouse before sunrise on Sunday morning so plan on an overnight in Susanville. Leader will be Ruth Rudesill. More details in March Kite Tales.

The April field trip will be to Mitchell Canyon, Mt. Diablo. The May field trip will be to either Ida Clayton Road or Pine Flat Road.

There is still room on Mendocino Coast Audubon's Birding trip on the Skunk Train. This sounds like a unique opportunity to bird in new areas and ride the train. Details were in the January Kite Tales. Any questions call Dorothy (Toby) Tobkin at 707-964-6216.

KITE TALES DEADLINES

Please observe the following deadlines when providing information for inclusion in the Kite Tales: deadline for observations to Ned Wynn is the 20th of the month and for announcements/ articles to Ruth Rudesill by the 25th of the month. (Addresses and phone numbers on back)

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FIELD TRIP REPORT

January 10th trip to Bodega Bay area - This trip was led by Ted Eliot who reported the weather was cloudy with intermittent rain showers. The group observed 94 species the best of which were: two Red Knots at Doran Beach and a Nashville Warbler at Bodega Dunes Campground. There were nine enthusiastic participants: Avis Anderson, Dick Ashford, Ted Eliot, Betty Groce, Barbara Gumtow, Bob and Bertha Rains, Jim and Jean Tonascia.

Birds Observed: Red-throated, Pacific, Common Loon; Pied-billed, Horned, Red-necked, Eared, Western, and Clark's Grebe; Northern Fulmar; Brown Pelican; Double-cr., Brandt's, and Pelagic Cormorant; Great Blue Heron; Great and Snowy Egret; Black-cr. Night-Heron; Brant; Mallard; Northern Shoveler; Gadwall; American Wigeon; Cnavasnacbk; Greater and Lesser Scaup; Surf and White-winged Scoter; Common Goldeneye; Bufflehead; Red-breasted Merganser; Ruddy Duck; Turkey Vulture; Osprey; Northern Harrier; Red-tailed Hawk; American Kestrel; Peregrine Falcon; Virginia Rail; American Coot; Black-bellied, Snowy and Semi-palmated Plover; Black Oystercatcher; American Avocet; Willet; Whimbrel; Marbled Godwit; Black and Ruddy Turnstone; Surfbird; Red Knot; Western and Least Sandpiper; Dunlin; Heermann's, Mew, Ring-billed, California, Herring, Western, and Glaucous-winged Gull; Forster's Tern; Rock and Mourning Dove; Anna's Hummingbird; Northern Flicker, Black Phoebe; Scrub Jay; Common Raven; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Bushtit; Brown Creeper; Bewick's, House, and Winter Wren; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Hermit Thrush; American Robin; American Pipit; Starling; Nashville and Yellow-rumped Warbler; California Towhee; Fox, Song, Golden-crowned and White-crowned Sparrow; Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbird; Western Meadowlark; House Finch; and House Sparrow.

PHONE WHEEL (FEBRUARY 1998)

This is our new phone wheel. Please follow these rules when using the phone wheel.

1. When you receive word of a rare or unusual bird, call the person whose name follows your name on the list (the last person calls the first).
2. Report the following information:
 - a. bird species (including age and sex information if relevant)
 - b. location (including directions of how to get there if required)
 - c. when the bird was last seen
 - d. who found and identified the bird
 - e. who started the phone wheel
3. If you reach an answering machine (everyone should have one), leave a short message so that the person can call back for details. Next call the following person on the list. Repeat calling until you reach a person who can pass on the information.

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Bob Rains | 528-6785 |
| 2. Richard Merriss | 525-8629 |
| 3. Rick LeBaudour | 792-1800 |
| 4. Wini Nelson | 762-6152 |
| 5. Alan Wight | 763-8572 |
| 6. Ted Eliot | 935-3410 |
| 6. Mike Parmeter | 255-6757 |
| 7. Wayne Tillay | 965-2978 |
| 8. Ruth Rudesill | 833-6026 (home) 763-7877 (work) |
| 9. Betty Groce | 539-8664 |
| 10. Betty Burrige | 527-0225 |
| 11. Avis Anderson | 539-0470 |
| 12. Deyea Harper | 542-1542 |
| 13. David A. Hofmann | 546-0325 |
| 14. Linda Petrulias | 632-5532 |
| 15. Louise Johnson | 823-2245 |

THANK YOU DAVID for organizing this phone wheel!

1997

1997 SANTA ROSA CHRISTMAS COUNT

compiled & reported by Doug Ellis

The 38th annual Santa Rosa Christmas Count was held on December 21, 1997. The weather was clear but cold and windy in some areas. 138 species were found and 23,030 birds by 24 observers. The big surprise for the count was an Oldsquaw at the Oakmont sewer pond. This was a count first. Other highlights included a Clark's Grebe, Snow Goose, a Selasphorus hummingbird, White-fronted Goose, and a California Thrasher at Howarth Park. Here is the whole list:

Pied-billed Grebe	103	Golden Eagle	4(3 ad., 1 imm.)
Horned Grebe	7	American Kestrel	52
Eared Grebe	17	Merlin	6
Western Grebe	6	Falcon sp.	1
Clark's Grebe	1	Hawk sp.	1
White Pelican	78	Ring-necked Pheasant	7
Double-crested Cormorant	122	Wild Turkey	15
Great Blue Heron	23	California	103
Great Egret	98	Virginia Rail	7
Snowy Egret	214	Sora	1
Cattle Egret	14	Common Moorhen	5
Green Heron	4	American Coot	1184
Black-crowned Night-Heron	7	Killdeer	82
Snow Goose	1	Black-necked Stilt	10
White goose sp.	15	American Avocet	4
Canada Goose	326	Greater Yellowlegs	61
Wood Duck	12	Least Sandpiper	21
Green-winged Teal	101	Dunlin	24
Mallard	663	Long-billed Dowitcher	5
Northern Pintail	46	Common Snipe	20
Cinnamon Teal	4	Mew Gull	24
Northern Shoveler	253	Ring-billed Gull	333
Gadwall	10	California Gull	42
Eurasian Wigeon	2	Herring Gull	1
American Wigeon	406	Gull sp.	108
Canvasback	33	Rock Dove	491
Ring-necked Duck	198	Mourning Dove	159
Greater Scaup	20	Barn Owl	4
Lesser Scaup	5	Western Screech-owl	3
Oldsquaw	1	Great Horned Owl	5
Common Goldeneye	11	Northern Pygmy-owl	3
Bufflehead	216	Spotted Owl	1
Common Merganser	126	Northern Saw-whet Owl	2
Ruddy Duck	1829	Anna's Hummingbird	176
Turkey Vulture	137	<u>Selasphorus</u> Hummingbird sp.	1
Osprey	2	Belted Kingfisher	20
White-tailed Kite	23	Acorn Woodpecker	144
Northern Harrier	6	Red-breasted Sapsucker	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	Nuttall's Woodpecker	67
Cooper's Hawk	2	Downy Woodpecker	10
Red-shouldered Hawk	35	Hairy Woodpecker	5
Red-tailed Hawk	57	Northern Flicker	94
Gr. White-fronted Goose	1		
Pileated Woodpecker	2	European Starling	3827
Black Phoebe	107	Hutton's Vireo	16
Say's Phoebe	14	Orange-crowned Warbler	2
Tree Swallow	1	Yellow-rumped Warbler	290

1997 Santa Rosa Christmas Bird Count cont:

Steller's Jay	45	Townsend's Warbler	28
Scrub Jay	280	Spotted Towhee	109
American Crow	1416	California Towhee	327
Common Raven	32	Rufous-crowned Sparrow	3
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	131	Lark Sparrow	42
Oak Titmouse	120	Savannah Sparrow	26
Bushtit	391	Fox Sparrow	58
Red-breasted Nuthatch	5	Song Sparrow	182
White-breasted Nuthatch	54	Lincoln's Sparrow	12
Brown Creeper	25	White-throated Sparrow	1
Bewick's Wren	22	Golden-crowned Sparrow	650
Winter Wren	8	White-crowned Sparrow	411
Marsh Wren	8	Sparrow sp.	4
Golden-crowned Kinglet	30	Dark-eyed Junco	567
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	265	Red-winged Blackbird	933
Western Bluebird	81	Western Meadowlark	500
Hermit Thrush	44	Brewer's Blackbird	730
American Robin	1076	Brown-headed Cowbird	5
Varied Thrush	80	Blackbird sp.	235
Wrentit	17	Purple Finch	17
Northern Mockingbird	71	House Finch	586
California Thrasher	1	Pine Siskin	50
American Pipit	106	Lesser Goldfinch	125
Cedar Waxwing	170	American Goldfinch	148
Loggerhead Shrike	4	House Sparrow	202

Participants: Lee Babineaux, Terry Babineaux, Betty Burridge, Lew Edmondson, Ted Eliot, Doug Ellis, Bob Evans, Betty Groce, Eleanor Guilford, Rick LeBaudur, Bill Lenarz, Richard Marciess, Ian Morrison, Mike Nelligan, Dan Nelson, Becky Olson, Benjamin Parmer, Bertha Rains, Bob Rains, Miles Rains, Ruth Rudesill, Claire Shurvinton, Daniel Wilson, and Ken Wilson.

Hours: 106 1/2 foot 59 car 47 1/2 plus owling 4 1/2

Miles: 263 foot 51 car 212 plus owling 27 1/2

OBSERVATIONS IN SONOMA COUNTY - DEC. 1997-JAN. 1998

<u>BIRD</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION SON</u>	<u>OBSERVER(S)</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
Red-necked Grebe	4	12/28	off Bodega Head	BDP	
Northern Fulmar	260+	12/28	off Bodega Head	BDP	
Bl.-vented Shearwater	2	12/28	off Bodega Head	BDP	
American Bittern	3	12/29	Schollenberger Park	AW	
Green Heron	1	1/10	Petaluma Turn Basin	AW	
Eurasian Wigeon	1	12/21	West Olivet Pond	BDP	
Eurasian Wigeon	2	1/17	Bodega Farm Pond	DC, RoR	
Oldsquaw	1	1/3	Petaluma River	AW	
Oldsquaw	3-4	1/6-19	Port Sonoma	BDP, TE, DA	
Barrow's Goldeneye	13	1/6-	Port Sonoma	BDP, TE, AW	
Hooded Merganser	6	1/4	Carmody Rd Pond	BDP, TE	
Ferruginous Hawk	1	1/1-27	Watmaugh Rd. Sonoma	DA, RAR	
Rough-legged Hawk	1	1/3-15	Hwy 121/Roche Winery	DA, BDP	
Rough-legged Hawk	1	1/4	acrossed Lucas Wharf	BDP, TE	
Rough-legged Hawk	1	1/10	Pet. River/Hwy 37	RAR	
Golden Eagle	1	1/3	Sonoma Mountain	TE	
Merlin	1	1/3	Henry Road	BDP	
Prairie Falcon	1	1/3	Tolay Creek	DA	
Peregrine Falcon	1	1/17	Port of Sonoma	AW	
Common Moorhen	4	1/7	Shollenberger Park	TE	
Rock Sandpiper	1	1/1-	Bodega Head	DA, mob	
Wandering Tattler	2	1/4	Duncan's Landing	TE	
Long-billed Curlew	1	1/10	Port of Sonoma	AW	
Long-billed Dowitcher	1	12/21	Santa Rosa Creek	BDP	
Common Snipe	100+	1/4	seasonal pond Bodega	BDP, TE	
Ancient Murrelet	16	12/28	off Bodega Head	BDP	
Red-Br. Sapsucker	1	1/1	Sonoma Mountain	TE	
Nashville Warbler	1	12/24	Diekman's Bodega Bay	RB	
Orange-cr. Warbler	2	12/24	Diekman's Store	RB, TE	
		1/4	Bodega Bay		
Northern Waterthrush	1	12/28	Green Valley Rd	DS	
Rufous-cr. Sparrow	1	1/5	Sonoma Mountain	TE	

OBSERVATIONS OUTSIDE OF SONOMA COUNTY - Dec.1997-Jan.1998

<u>BIRD</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER(S)</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
Red-necked Grebe	1	1/1	Lake Hennessey	NAP BDP, WT	
Northern Fulmar	6	12/27	from Pt. Arena	MEN DT	
Northern Fulmar	3	12/27	from MacKerricher	DT	
Brown Pelican	100+	Jan	Coastal area	MEN DT	high #s
American Bittern	2	1/3	Sacramento NWR	GLE DC, DW, NW, RoR	
White-faced Ibis	30+	1/19	Sacramento NWR	GLE TE	
Ross' Goose	2	1/3	Sacramento NWR	GLE DC, DW, NW, RoR	
Redhead	5	1/2-12	Lake Mendocino	MEN GC, CV, BK	
Redhead	1	1/3	Colousa NWR	COL NW	
Gr. White-Fronted Goose	1	1/10-17	Ukiah Sewer Ponds	GC, CV	
Eurasian Wigeon	1	12/27	Garcia flats	MEN DT	male
Eurasian Wigeon	1	1/3	near Talmage	MEN BK	
Harlequin Duck	5	Dec/Jan	Glass Beach	MEN DT	
Barrow's Goldeneye	3	1/20	W Butte Road	BUT TE	
Bald Eagle	1	1/1	Lake Hennessey	NAP BDP, WT	
Bald Eagle	5	1/3	Lake Mendocino	MEN GC, BD	
Ferruginous Hawk	1	1/6	Hopland Field Sta.	BK	
Prairie Falcon	1	1/3	Lake Mendocino	MEN GC, BD	
Prairie Falcon	1	1/17	Ukiah Sewer Ponds	CV	
Rock Sandpiper	1	Dec/Jan	MacKerricher	SP MEN DT	
Bl-legged Kittiwake	1	12/27	from Pt. Arena	MEN DT	
Bl-legged Kittiwake	2	1/12	on shore, Van Damme	DT	
Laughing Gull	1	1/18-24	Limantour Beach	MRN RS, DA	
Costa's Hummingbird	1	thru 1/12	Willits	MEN SH	male in yard
Western Kingbird	1	1/16	Hoplnd Field Sta.	CV, BK	
Cassin's Kingbird	2	12/26	Wm Mason Park	ORA NW	
Vermilion Flycatcher	1	12/26	Wm Mason Park	ORA NW	imm male
Phainopepla	1	12/26	Wm Mason Park	ORA NW	female
Violet-green Swallow	6-40	thru 1/10	Ukiah Sewer Ponds	CV, BK, JW	
Hermit Warbler	1	12/27	near Manchester	MEN BK, JW, CV	1st winter
Nashville Warbler	1	1/7	Botanical Gardens	MEN DT	
Orange-cr. Warbler	3	thru 1/17	Ukiah area	MEN CV, DE	
Orange-cr. Warbler	1	12/14	MacKerricher	SP MEN DT	
Orange-cr. Warbler	1	12/24-31	yard Ft. Bragg	MEN DT	
Common Yellowthroat	2	12/27	Garcia flats	MEN DT	

Observers: Dick Ashford, Rich Bertoli, George Chaniot, Drew Cronk, Barbara Dolan, Damian Ebert, Ted Eliot, Scott Harris, Bob Keiffer, Mike Parmeter (BDP), Robin Robinson, Ruth Rudesill, Doug Shaw, Rich Stallcup, Dorothy (Toby) Tobkin, Chuck Vaughn, Jerry White, Alan Wight, Donna Wynnn and Ned Wynn

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 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 to the treasurer shown below.

1997-1998 Officers

President:	Bertha Rains	450A Las Casitas, Santa Rosa CA 95403	528-6785
Vice-President	Mike Nelligan	124 Wikiup Drive, Santa Rosa CA 95403	576-1475
Secretary:			
Treasurer:	Betty Burrige	1653 Arroyo Sierra, Santa Rosa CA 85404	527-0225

1997-1998 Chairpersons

Field Trips:	Mike Parmeter	2500 Emerson Street, Napa, CA 94558	255-6757
Observations:	Ned Wynn	29-B Powell Avenue, Healdsburg CA 95448	431-8412
Social:	Barbara Gumtow	7915 Bella Vista Dr, Sebastopol CA 95472	823-7869
Christmas Count:	Doug Ellis	PO Box 776, Kenwood, CA 95452	
Kite Tales:	Ruth Rudesill	PO Box 371, Kenwood, CA 95452	833-6026

**RUTH RUDESILL
PO BOX 371
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