

# Kite Tales



Redwood Region Ornithological Society

Volume 34 Number II

October 1999

## Coming Attractions

**October 9th, Saturday, 8:00 AM**

### **Field Trip to Bodega Harbor**

Meet in the parking area near the rail ponds at the north end of Bodega Harbor at 8:00AM. We will search for migrants, vagrants and birds that have returned for the Winter. Bring binoculars, scopes, field guides, lunch, water, and warm clothes. Leader is Alan Wight. Call Alan at 707 763-8572 if you have any questions.

**October 14th, Thursday, 7:30 PM - General Meeting**

**Darwin Hall, Room 207 - Sonoma State University, Cotati**

### **Note the change in meeting room:**

We have met in Room 221 for so long that we are likely to forget, but this year we'll be in Room 207 which is on the same floor. Don't get lost or you'll miss Dan Nelson's great program on shorebirds. Dan will be presenting a slide show of North American Shorebirds. Many of Dan's excellent photos were shot in Sonoma County. Perhaps we can convince Dan to do a program on Pelagic birds too so we can see the photos taken on his "Mollymawk" trips off the Sonoma County coast. You'll find details on Dan's upcoming trips on page 2 of this issue of *Kite Tales*.

**October 20th, Wednesday - Observations Deadline**

The 20th is our deadline for Kite Tales observations. Please forward sightings to Ned Wynn 129-B Powell Ave. Healdsburg, Ca 95448 707 431-8412 or via email: ekwynn@pon.net

**October 25th, Monday - Kite Tales Deadline**

Send announcements, articles, trivia, errata, letters to the editor and such to Gerry Mugele PO Box 813 Glen Ellen, Ca 95442 or via email: mewgull@ix.netcom.com

**November 18th -21st, Thursday through Sunday**

### **Central Valley Bird Symposium - Stockton Radisson Hotel**

Learn how to identify our regional resident birds, where to see them and what optics you may need. Master the subtle differences between the "western" flycatchers. Learn everything about habitat, conservation efforts, distribution and life history of resident species in the Central Valley. Capture a bird's beauty or behavior on film, paper or canvas. Plant a birder's garden that will be enjoyed year round. You can find answers, knowledge, tips, "tools of the trade" and more by attending the 3rd Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium. There will be field trips, exhibits, seminars, workshops and a birder's market. Renowned speakers, artists, field trip leaders, local birders and others will be there to help you and share their expertise. For information call 800 950-1987 or you can visit the Web Site: <http://www.geocities.com/RainForest/Vines/5954/BirdingSymposium2.html>



**Off Shore Trips:**

This month's speaker Dan Nelson runs the Mollymawk organization conducting pelagic birding trips out of Bodega Harbor. Dan has been an RROS member since well before he was in highschool. In addition to his impressive land bird expertise, Dan has become an accomplished oceanic birder. Join him on the next Mollymawk trip which will be on Oct. 16th. The boat will depart at 7:00 AM and return around 5:00 or 6:00 PM. There will also be a deep water trip (1000 fathoms+) on Saturday November 27th and it will be the last trip for this millennium. These trips are moderately priced; the October trip will be just \$65.

Both of these trips will include substantial time in Sonoma County waters, where we will attempt to expand the Sonoma County pelagic bird knowledge base. (Most everybody else goes to Cordell Bank, virtually ignoring Sonoma County waters) For reservations or more information call 707 762-5167

**This just in...**

September 29th, Roger Higson reported to the Southeastern CA RBA that he had disturbing news from Desert Center. He found numerous shorebirds and ducks dead in the water reclamation pond. He reported that a Lesser Yellowlegs that was still feeding was dead within 20 minutes. They're looking for anyone who might be able to investigate this. If you can help; please contact John Green in Riverside, California. His number is 909 686-2956.

**Birdathon News**

The Gray Jays PRBO Birdathon team: Mike Parmeter, Alan Wight and Rick LeBaudour made their Birdathon effort a big day; a really really big day. They broke the fourteen year old Sonoma County big day record by listing 177 species on September 18th. The previous record was 176, set on April 27th 1985 by RROS members, Dan Nelson, Doug Ellis, Rick LeBaudour and Richard Merris. Congratulations to the new top team.

Mike did a second Birdathon on the following Tuesday, the 21st. Ted Eliot joined in and reports that their list included a respectable 167 species in Sonoma County.

The Mew Gull team: Kathy Mugele, Mary Rooney, Dan Noreen and Gerry Mugele also participated in the Birdathon on the 18th and ran up a list of 152 species.

**Field Trip Report**

**Pt, Reyes National Seashore September 19th**  
- by Alan Wight

Point Reyes treated us to great weather and a nice variety of vagrants and migrants. Highlights included an imm. Peregrine Falcon of the *pealei* subspecies, two American and two Pacific Golden-Plovers, one Blue-headed Vireo and one Cassin's Vireo (a nice comparison), two Indigo Buntings, and an Orchard Oriole. Twelve species of warblers were observed including Chestnut-sided Warbler (4), Hermit Warbler (2), Blackburnian Warbler (1), Blackpoll Warbler (2), American Redstart (2), MacGillivray's Warbler (1), and Mourning Warbler (1). The Mourning Warbler was seen by Betty Groce only and had been present since the day before. Fieldtrip participants were Carol Brant, Ted Eliot, Betty Groce, Jack Groce, Katherine Hickey, Bill Payne, Bertha and Bob Rains, Don and Laverne Rickert, and Alan Wight.

Birds observed: Pacific Loon, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Clark's Grebe, Sooty Shearwater, Brown Pelican, Brandt's Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Canada Goose, Mallard, Surf Scoter, Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon, California Quail, American Golden-Plover, Pacific Golden-Plover, Killdeer, Heermann's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Western Gull, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Rock Dove, Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, *Selasphorus* Hummingbird, Western Wood-Pewee, Willow Flycatcher, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Western Kingbird, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Steller's Jay, Western Scrub-Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Swainson's Thrush, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Cassin's Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Hutton's Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Hermit Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler,



**Field Trip Observations, continued:**

Blackpoll Warbler, American Redstart, MacGillivray's Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Western Tanager, Indigo Bunting, California Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Tricolored Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

**The RROS Projector Fund**

Over the years RROS has benefited enormously from the generosity of the membership. For instance the slide projector that we've been using was lent to us long ago by Terry Babineaux. That old Ektagraphic has seen many years of use, is wearing out and is now due for retirement. Thanks Terry.

That leaves us with no 35mm slide projector for our meetings. The prescience of your president however is going to save the day. An effort is already in the works to get a new and reliable projector at as much of a bargain price as we can find. RROS' first husband Jack Harper, is a master bargain hunter, but even his negotiation skills can't get us what we need for much less than \$400.

The RROS budget, while currently enjoying good health, cannot weather such a draw down without worry. Therefore the executive board has established the RROS Projector Fund and is soliciting your tax-exempt donations. Since RROS is a registered non-profit organization; your contribution will be fully tax-deductible. Our treasurer, CPA Mike Nelligan can quote you the applicable statutes for your tax return if need be.

So here's the plea: forego that extra topping on your pizza, skip this week's edition of the *National Inquirer* or delete the cheesecake from your weekend menu and set that money saved aside for the projector. If we can all come up with a few bucks the RROS budget can survive untouched and we'll be able to view our monthly programs without projector repair breaks.

You can send your contribution to Mike at the address on the Kite Tales masthead or hand it to one of the officers at the next meeting.

**A Case of Attempted Hummercide**

Art and Hanna Richard, of Ingram Texas, banders of Hummingbirds since 1996, submit the following:

Mantids have been clinging to the sides of our feeders the past few years. They'd hang with one hind foot hooked in the band around the top of the feeder and their body arched outward, predatory (praying) legs extended. We assumed they were waiting for any insects that might come to visit.

They *did* show unusual interest in hummers, by tracking them as they approached the feeder. We thought how pathetic they were, since, obviously, any hummer would simply fly off with them. When you've taken a few thousand hummers out of traps you are aware of just how strong they are for their size.

Sunday, Hanna was out in the yard banding hummers when she heard a hummingbird 'crying' in an unusual manner. After the birds that she was working on left the area, she went to investigate. Not ten feet away in some bush salvia, she found a hummer, belly up in the foliage. She lifted the bird from the plant and only then saw the mantis that clutched it, with her mouth fixed to his throat. She ran into the house with bird in one hand and insect in the other. The hand holding the bird had blood on one finger. There were wispy body feathers in the mantid's mouth and in the spines of her tightly closed grabbing legs. The mantis was entirely green and matched the foliage perfectly.

The hummingbird was a male Ruby-throat, hatched this year and he weighed 3.1 grams. After a rest and a few good drinks he seemed to be fine. The (alleged) assailant was a Carolina Mantis (*Stagmomantis carolina*). She had a distended abdomen with female sex organs so was with children. Her measurements were: Thorax - 39 mm Abdomen 22.7 mm Total length about 61.7 mm. She weighed 4.5 grams. She is also doing well and shows no signs of remorse. Folks, for any of you who might not have believed those mantis versus hummer stories...believe it. That bird wasn't going anywhere and would have surely been mantis food. So, would *you* intervene in a case of a mantis mugging a hummer in order to save the bird?

## Observations

<u>Species</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>Notes</u>
White-faced Ibis	1	9/2	Shollenberger Park	SON	AW	
Blue-winged Teal	10	9/2	Shollenberger Park	SON	AW	
" "	8	9/9	Shollenberger Park	SON	TE	
Redhead	1	9/18	Petaluma Sewer Ponds	SON	BDP, AW, RL	adult amle
Golden Eagle	1	9/1	Top of Mt. St. Helena	NAP	BDP, HM	adult
" "	1	9/18	King's Ridge Rd.	SON	DN, BDP, AW, RL	
Merlin	1	9/12	Bodega Head	SON	BDP, RL	
" "	1	9/18	Bridgehaven	SON	BDP, AW, RL	
Peregrine Falcon	1	9/18	Doran Park	SON	BDP, AW, RL	adult
" "	1	9/19	Pt. Reyes	MAR	AW et. al.	pealei subspecies
Blue Grouse	4	9/18	King's Ridge Road	SON	MR, DN, KM, etc.	Walking in Road
American Golden Plover	1	9/11	Drakes's Corner	MAR	DA, TE	
" " "	1	9/18	Doran Park	SON	BDP, AW, RL	basic plummage
Pacific Golden Plover	5	9/11	Drakes's Corner	MAR	DA, TE	
Lesser Yellowlegs	23	8/25	Shollenberger Park	SON	AW	
" "	4	9/9	Shollenberger Park	SON	TE	
Solitary Sandpiper	1	9/11	Pt. Reyes (Spaletta Pond)	MAR	DA, TE	
Red Knot	2	9/4-15	Doran Park	SON	TE, DA	
Baird's Sandpiper	1	9/4	Petaluma Sewer Ponds	SON	DNn	
" "	1	9/11	Bodega (Gaffney Point)	SON	DNn	
Pectoral Sandpiper	1	9/18	Carmody Rd. Ponds	SON	BDP, AW, RL	imm
Stilt Sandpiper	1	9/12	Petaluma Sewer Ponds	SON	DNn	adult
Wilson's Phalarope	15	9/18	Petaluma Sewer Ponds	SON	BDP, AW, RL	
Red-necked Phalarope	25+	9/18	Bodega Harbor	SON	KM, BDP, etc.	
✓ Elegant Tern	10+	9/9	Bodega (Spud Point)	SON	BDP, DNn	
" "	4	9/18	Bodega Harbor	SON	BDP, AW, RL	
Common Tern	3	9/7	Bodega (Gaffney Point)	SON	DNn, DE, DH	
✓ Black Skimmer	2	9/20	Gaffney Point	SON	BDP, DNn, DH	
Marbled Murrelet	10+	9/18	off Jenner	SON	BDP, AW, RL	
✓ Rhinoceros Auklet	1	9/6	Bodega (Campbell Cove)	SON	AW	
Willow Flycatcher	2	9/12	Bodega (Owl Canyon)	SON	BDP, RL	
" "	2	9/18	Bodega (Owl Canyon)	SON	KM, GM	
" "	3	9/20	West side of Bodega	SON	BDP, DNn, DH	
Dusky Flycatcher	1	9/18	Bodega (Owl Canyon)	SON	KM, GM	
Yellow-throated Vireo	1	9/11	Bear Valley Rd. Limntour	MAR	RS	
Plumbeous Vireo	1	9/11	Owl Canyon	SON	RR	
Blue-headed Vireo	1	9/19	Point Reyes	MAR	AW et. al.	
Philadelphia Vireo	1	9/12	Drakes Beach willows	MAR	RS, et.al.	
Red-eyed Vireo	1	9/11	Owl Canyon	SON	RR	
Purple Martin	5	9/10	Campbell Cove	SON	DNn	
Canyon Wren	3	9/1	Mount St. Helena	NAP	BDP, HM	calling
Tennessee Warbler	1	9/11	Pt. Reyes (Nunes Ranch)	MAR	DA, TE	
" "	1	9/20	Campbell Cove Willows	SON	BDP, DNn, DH	
Nashville Warbler	1	9/20	Owl Canyon	SON	BDP, DNn, DH	



*Observations continued*

<u>Species</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1	9/9	Bodega Harbor	SON	BDP, DNn	Chestnut-female, fall plumage
" "	"	1	9/11 Pt. Reyes (Nunes Ranch)	MAR	DA, TE	
" "	"	1	9/11 Pt. Reyes (Light House)	MAR	DA, TE	
" "	"	1	9/11 Pt. Reyes (Fish Docks)	MAR	DA, TE	
" "	"	1	9/12 Bodega (Owl Canyon)	SON	BDP, RL	First fall bird
" "	"	1	9/12 Bodega (Hole in the Head)	SON	BDP, RL	
" "	"	1	9/15 Bodega Dunes CG	SON	TE	
" "	"	4	9/19 Point Reyes	MAR	AW et. al.	
Black-thrtd Blue Warbler	1	9/19			Pt. Reyes (Nunes Ranch)	MAR RR
Black-thrtd Gray Warbler	1	9/1			Mount St. Helena	NAP BDP, HM
adult male						
American Redstart	1	9/12	Bodega (Owl Canyon)	SON	BDP, RL	imm. male
" "	>2	9/19	Point Reyes	MAR	AW et. al.	
Blackburnian Warbler	1	9/11	Pt. Reyes (Nunes Ranch)	MAR	DA, TE	
" "	1	9/19	Point Reyes	MAR	AW et. al.	
Blackpoll Warbler	2	9/19	Point Reyes	MAR	AW et. al.	
Mourning Warbler	1	9/19	Point Reyes (Light house)	MAR	BG, RR	
Northern Waterthrush	1	9/19	Pt. Reyes (Mendoza Ranch)		MAR	RR
Kentucky Warbler	1	9/11	Owl Canyon	SON	RR	
Blue Grosbeak	2	9/20	Bodega Harbor	SON	BDP, DNn, DH	
Indigo Bunting	2	9/19	Point Reyes	MAR	AW et. al.	
Orchard Oriole	1	9/19	Point Reyes	MAR	AW et. al.	

**Observers:** Dick Ashford, Ted Eliot, Doug Ellis, Betty Groce, David Hoffman, Rick Lebaudour, Herb McGrew, Gerry Mugele, Kathy Mugele, Dan Nelson (DNn), Dan Noreen, Mike Parmeter (BDP), Mary Rooney, Ruth Rudesill, Rich Stallcup, Alan Wight,

**An anonymous Donation**

Treasurer Mike informs *Kite Tales* that he recently received a very generous contribution to RROS, made in memory of John McDonough. Let us say thanks to our benefactor while remembering our good times afield with John

**Don't forget to renew your membership:**

**Dues are due!** Have you paid your dues for the 1999 - 2000 year? If not, now is a good time to get your check in the mail to Mike Nelligan, 124 Wikiup Drive, Santa Rosa CA 95403. Do it now before you forget. RROS is still a great bargain at \$15 per year for a family, \$8 for an individual membership and a mere \$3 for the impoverished students among us. Mike is anxiously awaiting your check.

**Not sure whether you're paid up? Check the address label on your copy of the *Kite Tales* . It indicates your dues status.**

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 207 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.

**1999 - 2000 Officers:**

**President:** Deyea Harper, 2310 Northwood Dr., Santa Rosa CA 95404 -2245 707 542-1542  
E-Mail: JHarperTrustee@compuserve.com

**Vice President:** Betty Groce, 411 Trail Ridge Ct., Santa Rosa CA 95409-6482 707 539-8664  
E-Mail: blgroce @ Prodigy.net

**Secretary:** Benjamin D. Parmeter, 2500 Emerson St., Napa CA 94558-4611 707 255-6757

**Treasurer:** Mike Nelligan, 124 Wikiup Drive, Santa Rosa CA 95403-7700 707 576-1475  
E-Mail: bandm@monitor.net

**1999 - 2000 Chairs:**

**Field Trips:** Alan Wight, 19 Wooddale Dr., Petaluma CA 94952 707 763-8572  
E-Mail: shwand@sonic.net

**Observations:** Ned Wynn, 129-B Powell Ave., Healdsburg CA 95448-3413 707 431-8412  
E-Mail: ekwynn@pon.net

**Social:** Barbara Gumtow, 7915 Bella Vista Dr., Sebastopol CA 95472-2701 707 823-7869

**Christmas Count:** Doug Ellis, PO Box 776, Kenwood CA 95452-0776

**Good Birding Spots:** Ted Eliot, 5850 Grove St., Sonoma CA 95476-6095 707 935-3410  
E-Mail: patted@sonic.net

**Kite Tales:** Gerry Mugele, PO Box 813, Glen Ellen, Ca 95442-0813 707 938-2134  
E-Mail: mewgull@ix.netcom.com

Gerald G. Mugele  
PO Box 813  
Glen Ellen, California 95442

