

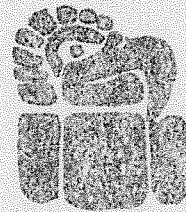
# KITE TALES

APRIL

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
VOL. 8 - NO. 7 SANTA ROSA, CALIF.

1974

## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS.....



*Eagle Hunt, Mexico*

April 11, Thursday: April meeting of RROS

Come one and all to hear "Of Muttonbirds and Mollymawks": A talk by Dr. Peter Connors, Research Ecologist at Bodega Marine Lab, will feature his trip to New Zealand's subantarctic Auckland Islands.

Also at this meeting club elections will be held. At March's meeting the nominating committee presented the following people as nominees:

President: Lynn Stafford  
Vice-Pres.: Dr. Wayne Tilley  
Secretary: John Parmeter  
Treasurer: Carson Patterson

Nominations may also be made from the floor at the April meeting.

April 13, Saturday: RROS field trip to Sugarloaf and Annadel Parks

Field trip chairman Gordon Bolander will lead this trip. Meet at the Black Forest Inn, Calistoga Rd., between 7:30 and 8:00 A.M.

April 13, Saturday: Deadline for May Kite Tales

May 9, Thursday: May meeting of RROS

Dr. John Arnold, who since January has been in Oaxaca, Mexico, collecting mammals, will speak about his trip.

May 11, Saturday: RROS field trip to Ids Clayton Rd.

May 12, Sunday: Bodega Off-shore trip

Mike Parmeter has reserved the boat, the pinback. The cost is \$11 per person, payable in advance to Mike, 2500 Emerson St., Napa, CA, 94558. (The last pages of the Kite Tales are an Off-shore guide, compiled by Mike for the reference of off-shore addicts.)

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY .....

Last spring, many of us saw a picture of RRCS member Faye Beaman, plant carrier on his back, working in the Warm Springs Dam area with the California Native Plant Society. Several other RRCS members are also CNPS members. What is this interesting organization all about?

To answer questions and acquaint RRCS more with this worthwhile group, RRCS member Ruth Haas (Field Trip Chairman for CNPS), sent the Kite Tales the following article.

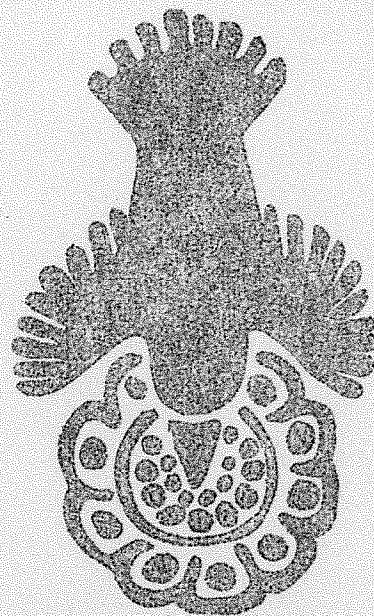
California Native Plant Society  
By Vanette Bunyan

The California Native Plant Society was founded in Berkeley in 1965 in response to widespread concern about the growing threat to many of the plant species native to California. In addition to the original group centered in the San Francisco Bay area, there are thirteen chapters around the state. The Society is incorporated as a non-profit organization.

When the Sonoma County chapter of CNPS organized in March of 1972, and chose "Milo Baker" as its name, it identified itself with the late Milo S. Baker, botanist at Santa Rosa Junior College and curator of the North Coast Herbarium from 1922 to 1961. The Herbarium is now housed at Cal State, Sonoma, with Dr. Charles Quibell as curator. The beautiful life-sciences building on the Santa Rosa Junior College campus is named Baker Hall in honor of Milo Baker.

The Milo Baker chapter started with 15 members; it now has more than tripled its membership. Its program of evening meetings and field trips offers to members, guests and the general public a variety of educational lectures, slide shows, and trips to many different plant associations. Rare plant sites have been and are being located and watched; some are lost and a few have been saved. The chapter has worked with the U.S. Army Engineers at Warm Springs Dam to salvage plants from potential flooded areas; it has persuaded the Sonoma County Water Agency to preserve a natural area at Spring Lake; it has commented on Environmental Impact Reports prepared for the County Parks and Recreation Dept.; it hopes to be influential in re-routing certain portions of the Russian River-Cobetti intertie pipeline away from rare plant sites in the Forestville and Laguna areas.

A plant sale held each September provides funds needed to operate the chapter. A local newsletter is published and mailed each month to members and other interested parties. Donations from chapter funds have been made to Friends of Anadel and will be made to support other conservation projects.



*Humming bird and flower,  
Mexico*



Dorothy Ratcliff writes,

"Last spring, when Mauricia was visiting me, we drove to Lewistown Fish Hatchery about thirty miles west of Redding on Highway 299. I had seen bald eagles there several times and hoped to be able to add one to her list.

As we stood watching the fish in the ponds, two eagles flew over our heads, soared up over the tree tops, chased each other, drifted on the air currents then finally floated over the crest of the mountain and out of our sight.

Mauricia was impressed. She went home, wrote a poem about it, had her poem published and I think it might be of interest to the readers of Kite Tales."

Bald Eagle Rendesvous\*

-- Mauricia Price

Above the upward-pointing fingertips  
Of green-gloved pines, two eagles rendezvoused  
To improvise Spring choreography.  
White-plumaged heads and tails - perennoses  
Of frosted featherings - provided both  
Black bodies with a touch of elegance.  
They swept in looping arcs, describing wide  
Configurations, banked, descended, climbed.  
Then this cross-circling pair discovered brief  
Warm updrafts in the buoyant mountain air  
On which to glide - and blend wing-swirl designs  
Against a blue-white wash of crisp March sky.

\*Reprinted by permission of Prairie Post Books.

## GUIDE TO OFF-SHORE TRIPS

by Mike Parmeter

(See accompanying chart on page 6)

On April 4, 1965, the Redwood Region Ornithological Society held its first off-shore trip. Since that time twice yearly trips have been held, weather permitting, in late April or early May and again in October. In addition I have been out twice in salmon trolling boats, a distance of up to four miles, once in August and once in September. The trip on December 23, 1970, was part of the Western Sonoma County Christmas Court. Trips begin at the Tides Wharf in Bodega Harbor, then proceed straight out, past Bodega Head into pelagic waters. Usually the boat goes only 12-14 miles off-shore, but on May 7, 1972, the boat took us to Cordell Banks, approximately 30 miles off-shore. On this latter trip we had the good fortune to find a trawler which was cleaning its nets, and a large number of birds had been attracted, including 17 Black-footed Albatrosses. Chumming is carried out continuously once the boat is past Bodega Head. The presence of a few gulls around the boat seems to attract other birds. Suet cut into small pieces, and popcorn, are the foods used. The chum is thrown out in small amounts at regular intervals. If too much chum is thrown at one time, the birds drop behind the boat to feed on the water.

On two occasions we have netted Black-footed Albatrosses. This is done by backing the boat into the wind while constantly throwing chum over the side. The winds will blow the birds on the water close enough to the boat to be captured with a salmon net. On a recent trip an albatross was seen with a leg band, but we were not able to capture the bird.

In addition to the Sonoma County trips, I have been off-shore at San Diego (1), Monterey (11), Farallones (9), and Eureka (3). The numbers recorded for Sonoma County are from personal notes taken during the trips or from estimates made shortly after the trips.

The following are comments of the species of pelagic birds which have been seen on Sonoma County trips:

1. Black-footed Albatross - Seen only on spring trips, but has been common in fall off Eureka. The birds with white on the rump and the face are older birds. Dr. Stan Harris of Humboldt State College tells me.
2. Fulmar - Erratic, from many to few or none.
3. Pink-footed Shearwater - Generally more common in spring than fall. Can be separated from the Sooty Shearwater by its flight manner. The Pink-footed have a slower wing beat and more leisurely gliding flight.
4. Flesh-footed Shearwater - Some authors consider this to be conspecific with the preceding species. The Flesh-footed does not act like a Pink-footed in that it usually is solitary, comes to the boat only momentarily, never following the boat.
5. New Zealand Shearwater - Regular in the fall, at times the commonest Shearwater. Its pure white underparts and pattern above allow easy identification. Seen singly and in flocks.
6. Sooty Shearwater - Generally the commonest Shearwater, but numbers vary from year to year.



CONTINUING THE OFF-SHORE GUIDE.....

7. Fork-tailed Storm Petrel - Rarely seen, but known to breed on islands off the coasts of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties.
8. Ashy Storm Petrel - The commonest petrel in northern California waters. Despite a breeding population at the Farallone Islands, this bird has been seen only occasionally off Sonoma County coast.
9. Black Storm Petrel - A single record, 10 birds on October 8, 1972. This constitutes the northern-most record for California.
10. Red Phalarope - Large numbers in "flight" years, absent in other years. Usually outnumbered by Northerners. I have seen this bird in spring plumage on only one occasion, in the spring of 1971 at Farallone Islands.
11. Northern Phalarope - The common Phalarope, seen spring and fall. Numbers may vary from year to year and on occasion the bird is absent.
12. Pomarine Jaeger - Usually a few immatures seen on fall trips. Light phase birds far outnumber dark phase birds.
13. Parasitic Jaeger - Less common than preceding species, all records are for fall. There are only a few spring records for all of California.
14. Skua - A rare bird in all California off-shore trips.
15. Black-legged Kittiwake - A common bird during "flight" years, generally only a few birds seen. Immatures outnumber adults.
16. Sabine Gull - Usually seen well off-shore, immature more common than adults. Will come to the boat briefly but does not follow.
17. Arctic Tern - Seen in passage in August and early September.
18. Common Murre - Always common, close to shore and out 4 or 5 miles, much less common farther out.
19. Pigeon Guillemot - Usually seen close to Bodega Head, and not seen when out more than 1-2 miles.
20. Marbled Murrelet - Seen close to shore, usually near mouth of Russian River or American Estero. Usually in pairs.
21. Ancient Murrelet - Less common than previous species, and more pelagic.
22. Cassin Auklet - Usually seen at some distance from shore, at least 3-4 miles out. A fairly common bird. Large numbers breed on the Farallone Islands.
23. Rhinoceros Auklet - Fairly common off-shore, although occasionally seen from Bodega Head. On December 12, 1970, 500 birds were seen in a large flock off the coast of Sonoma County.
24. Tufted Puffin - Noted more in recent years, 4 out of last 5 trips have seen this bird. On May 7, 1972, a bird was seen in breeding plumage. There are past records for this bird breeding on Arch Rock, but none in recent years.

Black-footed Albatross	2	1	2	2	2	1	2	1	10	15	3	50	1	6
Pink-footed Shearwater	3	3	250+	100+	200	2	2	2	10	15	3	50	1	6
New Zealand Shearwater	com	com	abun	100+	250+	abun	200+	100+	75	15	3	50	4	200+
Sooty Shearwater	com	com	abun	100+	150	abun	200+	100+	75	15	3	50	4	200+
Black-footed Shearwater														
Forked-tailed Storm Petrel														
Ashy Storm Petrel														
Black Storm Petrel														
Red Phalarope														
Northwestern Phalarope	com	com	com	com	com	com	com	com	com	com	com	com	com	com
Pomarine Jaeger			10		com		com	com	com	com	com	com	com	com
Parasitic Jaeger			2		1		1	4	1	1	1	1	1	1
Skua			1						2					
Black-legged Kittiwake														
Sooty Gull														
Avicula Gull Tern			6		1									
Common Murre	*	10	*	*	com	*	*	com	com	*	*	com	200	*
Pigeon Gull	*	10	*	*	com	*	*	com	com	*	*	com	200	*
Marbled Murrelet		3												
Academy of Naturalists														
Oceanic Auklet	10	7	6	7	1	3	9	1	2	*	7	6	500+	1
Rhinoceros Auklet														
Spotted Puffin														

abun( abundant ) = thousands  
 com( common ) = 10 - 100  
 ve( very common ) = 100-1000  
 fo( fairly common ) = 5 - 10  
 \* = present, number  
 not recorded

All birds from Bodega Bay, staying  
 from Sonoma County, usually 5 - 15  
 Incomplete records for 4-21-68 and  
 Compiled by Benga

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY...  
Established in 1962 for the purpose of  
encouraging the study and conservation of  
birds, other wildlife, and their natural  
habitat.

Regular monthly meetings are held from October through May on  
the second Thursday of the calendar month in Room 221 of the  
Charles Darwin Hall of Science at California State College, Sonoma,  
Rohnert Park. Meeting time is 8 P.M. Visitors are welcome.

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# PARKING PERMIT

COURTESY OF

CALIFORNIA STATE COLLEGE, SONOMA

For use in NON-RESERVED SECTION, only

on Thursday, March 14, 1974

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
ROOM 221 - DARWIN

(Display clearly in driver's compartment of car)