

# KITE TALKS

FEBRUARY

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
Vol. 10 - No. 6 SANTA ROSA, CALIF.

1976

## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS. . . . .

### February 12, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.: RROS Meeting; Birds of Alaska Tundra

At last, Peter and Carolyn Connor's program of their experiences as Biologists in Alaska's Tundra will become a reality. The Connors, RROS members, are highly skilled observers and interpreters of natural history.

### February 22, Sunday: Field Trip to Thornton and other Delta points.

Wetlands waterfowl provide the main focus for this trip to the Delta region. Sandhill Cranes, geese, ducks, and many marshland water birds are usually observed.

We will meet about 2 miles East of Fairfield on Hiway 12 at the dump road turnoff at 8:00 a.m. A carpool will form at 6:15 a.m. in Santa Rosa at the Hiway 12 - Calistoga Rd. intersection (Black Forest Inn). Those interested in arriving later can join the group just East of Sacramento River on Hiway 12 at 9:30 a.m.

### March 11, Thursday: RROS Meeting

Glenn Clifton of Angwin will present a program on birds of Southern and Eastern Mexico.

## FIELD TRIP REPORT: BODEGA LAGOON, JANUARY 11, 1976. . . . .

This year's trip was outstanding. Clear and cool weather furnished the backdrop for a full and rewarding day. Perhaps the most unusual sighting was the Eastern Phoebe, which has been present since the 3rd of January. This bird is staying near homes along the west side road. The Bodega Harbour Development golf course produced an unusual avian development, namely a lone Lapland Longspur. Large numbers of Water Pipits rove the course with a few Horned Larks. The Longspur, which has been observed regularly since the 3rd of January, seems to prefer the Horned Larks over the Pipits. One Northern Shrike near the "Hole in the Head", a careful study of a Virginia Rail, and a group of Rock Sandpipers at Bodega Head were other highlights. All together, the following 89 species were observed. Thanks, Gordon, for a great day. (See next page for list).

# Bodega Lagoon Field Trip List (January 21, 1976)

Common Loon	American Kestrel	Eastern Phoebe
Red-throated Loon	California Quail	Black Phoebe
Red-necked Grebe	Virginia Rail	Horned Lark
Horned Grebe	American Coot	Scrub Jay
Eared Grebe	Black Oystercatcher	Common Raven
Western Grebe	Semipalmated Plover	Ch.-backed Chickadee
Pied-billed Grebe	Snowy Plover	Bushtit
Brandt's Cormorant	Killdeer	Winter Wren
Pelagic Cormorant	Black-bellied Plover	Long-billed Marsh Wren
Great Blue Heron	Ruddy Turnstone	American Robin
Snowy Egret	Black Turnstone	Hermit Thrush
Bl.-cr. Night Heron	Common Snipe	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Mallard	Wandering Tattler	Water Pipit
Pintail	Willet	Northern Shrike
Green-winged Teal	Rock Sandpiper	Starling
Cinnamon Teal	Least Sandpiper	Warbler, Yellow-rumped
American Wigeon	Dunlin	Myrtle Warbler
Northern Shoveler	Short-billed Dowitcher	Audubon's Warbler
Canvasback	Marbled Godwit	House Sparrow
Greater Scaup	Sanderling	Western Meadowlark
Lesser Scaup	American Avocet	Red-winged Blackbird
Common Goldeneye	Glaucous-winged Gull	Brewer's Blackbird
Bufflehead	Western Gull	House Finch
White-winged Scoter	Herring Gull	Brown Towhee
Surf Scoter	Ring-billed Gull	Savannah Sparrow
Ruddy Duck	Mew Gull	Dark-eyed Junco
Red-br. Merganser	Anna's Hummingbird	White-crowned Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Belted Kingfisher	Golden-crowned Sparrow
White-tailed Kite	Flicker, Common	Fox Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Red-shafted F.	Song Sparrow
Marsh Hawk	Red-sh. X Yellow-sh.	Lapland Longspur

## LOCAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS SUMMARY . . . . .

Four C.B.Cs were conducted in Sonoma, Napa and Lake Counties this winter. They resulted in some interesting findings and patterns. The coastal count, Western Sonoma, has a low total, both for numbers of species, and for numbers of individuals of many species. Two inland counts, Santa Rosa and Angwin, had record high totals of species and strong individual totals as well. The fourth count, Clear Lake, was conducted for the first time this year.

Western Sonoma: -Jan. 3, 1976 -  
Participants - 81; species - 164; Compiler - Martha Bentley

The 1975 count produced one of the lowest of totals in the count's 9 year history. This has been attributed to the nearly dry ponds and streams, plus the effect of the east wind which may have blown the pelagic species out to sea beyond the count circle. However, the day produced some notables, including Barrow's Goldeneye (2), Oldsquaw (1), Merlin (2), Eastern Phoebe (1) - a Sonoma County record, I think, Northern Shrike (1), and Lapland Longspur (1).

Angwin: Jan. 1, 1976

Participants - 21; species - 131; Compiler - Wayne Tillay

A record number of species! The former high was 119. The high count was attributed to unusually mild weather. The Angwin Count serves as a good monitor of winter population patterns because the count has been conducted very similarly for many years. The number of participants has been close to twenty each year.

The following species were observed this year for the first time: Green Heron, Prairie Falcon, Downy Woodpecker, Horned Lark, and Sage Sparrow. Also, Merlin and Black-headed Grosbeak were observed during the count period. The all-time Angwin species list now totals 150. The groups with especially high counts were ducks, American Coot, Gulls, American Robin, Western Bluebirds, and Cedar Waxwings. A boat party on Putah Creek above Lake Berryessa saw 2 Bald Eagles, Wood Ducks, and 1 Sage Sparrow.

Compiler, Wayne Tillay, who has worked on the Angwin Count for 15 years, sees a trend towards more raptors (Kite, Red-shouldered Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Osprey, and Spotted Owl), gulls, Horned Grebes, and sandpipers.

Clear Lake: Jan. 4, 1976

Participants - 53; species - 129; Compiler - Ollie Kolkmann

Redbud Audubon Society and Compiler Ollie Kolkmann did a magnificent job of initiating this highly promising count. Highlights include Osprey, Peregrine Falcon, White-throated Swift, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Dipper, Mountain Bluebird, and Orange-crowned Warbler. The 7,400 Robins seem a bit excessive; and the 28 Screech Owls by one party is definitely overkill. Lake County undoubtedly will lead the nation in Barn Owl eggs - six!

Santa Rosa: Decr 21, 1975

Participants - 54; species - 137; Compiler - Mike Parmeter

The January Kite Tales included a summary of this year's count plus a species and numbers of individuals table for the sixteen-year history of this count. The record number of species this year was attributed to the mild weather preceeding the count day. Apparently birds remained in the area instead of moving on south or coastwise (in spite of adverse effects of the winter drought). Please make the following correction in the above noted table. The 1975 count for Willet was 1, not 0; my apologies to Baron McLean who found the only Willet ever recorded on the S.R.C.B.C.

..... Redwood Region Ornithological Society .....

Organized in 1962, the purpose of the club is to encourage the study and conservation of birds, other wildlife and their habitats.

Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month, Oct. through May, at 7:30 p.m. in Room 221 of Darwin Hall, California State College, Sonoma, Bohner Park.

Membership dues are \$6.00 for a family, \$4.50 for an individual, and \$2.00 for a student. This includes the subscriptions to the Kito Tales. Dues may be mailed to Carmen Patterson, at the address below, or presented to her at the meetings.

We welcome guests at our meetings and on our field trips.

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT	Wayne Tillay, 100 Cold Spr. Rd., Angwin 94508, 965-2978
VICE-PRES	Bruce Andre, 541 Rainville Rd., Petaluma 94952
SECRETARY	Ron Pozzi, 4967 Arcadia, Santa Rosa 95401, 545-4547
TREASURER	Carmen Patterson, 5577 Inverness, S.R. 95404, 544-7034
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PARKING PERMIT

COURTESY OF

CALIFORNIA STATE COLLEGE, SONOMA

For use in NON-RESERVED SECTION only

on Thursday, February 12, 1976

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
ROOM 221 - DARWIN

(Display clearly in driver's compartment of car.)