

# Kite Tales

SEPTEMBER

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
Vol. 13, No. 1 Sonoma County, Calif.

1978

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

September 14, Thursday, 6:30 p.m. Third Annual RROS Potluck Picnic  
The group picnic facilities at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park have been reserved for our annual potluck dinner. Bring your favorite food and drink and your summer stories. RROS will supply utensils, plates, napkins, etc. Come and get reacquainted over a super supper! To get there take highway 12 from Santa Rosa or Sonoma areas, and follow signs to Kenwood. About one half mile north of Kenwood turn onto Adobe Canyon Road. Follow this road to the park, from the ranger booth proceed straight on the main road to the group picnic area.

September 16 & 17, Saturday and Sunday: Birding Monterey and Monterey Bay  
The boat, for the offshore trip on Sunday, is filled to the gunwales. Participants will meet at 48 Municipal Wharf at 7 a.m. Sunday. Contact Doug Ellis for more information. (833-4344) John Parmeter will lead the Saturday field trip. Meet at the Municipal Wharf at 8 a.m. Late arrivals may join the trip at Point Lobos at noon.

Doug has made arrangements to use a group campground on both Friday and Saturday nights. It is at the Veterans Memorial Park at the end of Jefferson Street. It will be available to a maximum of 20 people. Overnight accommodations will be limited this weekend due to the popularity of the Monterey Jazz Festival. Please call Doug if you are interested in this campground.

October 12, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.: RROS General Meeting  
Bill Grummer, a ranger with the Napa Valley State Parks, will present a program on the raptors of Northern California. Prior to the regular program, Dr. Arnold will give a short presentation on his continuing study of mockingbird distribution in the state.

## SPECIAL NOTE:

Members should make careful note of the October field trip and meeting. This issue of the Kite Tales will be the last notice before the October meeting.

Starting with the next issue, Kite Tales will be distributed at our monthly meetings. This is an effort to save money on the postage. Those unable to attend meetings will receive their copies by mail as usual, but after the meeting date. (we gotta cut costs somewhere....if ya have a better idea or complaint we'd like to hear about it.)

(The following page is the results of the breeding bird survey held in May. Asterisks indicate that there was evidence of breeding.)

SONOMA COUNTY BREEDING BIRD SURVEY, MAY 1978

|                           |                           |                              |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Common Loon               | Least Sandpiper           | Plain Titmouse               |
| Arctic Loon               | Dunlin                    | Bushtit                      |
| Red-throated Loon         | Short-billed Dowitcher    | White-breasted Nuthatch      |
| Western Grebe             | Western Sandpiper         | Red-breasted Nuthatch        |
| Brown Pelican             | Marbled Godwit            | Pygmy Nuthatch               |
| *Double-crested Cormorant | American Avocet           | Brown Creeper                |
| *Brandt's Cormorant       | Northern Phalarope        | Wrentit                      |
| *Pelagic Cormorant        | Pomarine Jaeger           | *House Wren                  |
| *Great Blue Heron         | Glaucous-winged Gull      | Winter Wren                  |
| *Green Heron              | Western Gull              | Bewick's Wren                |
| Great Egret               | California Gull           | Long-billed Marsh Wren       |
| Snowy Egret               | Ring-billed Gull          | *Mockingbird                 |
| Black-crowned Night Heron | Bonaparte's Gull          | California Thrasher          |
| Black Brant               | Forster's Tern            | *American Robin              |
| *Mallard                  | Caspian Tern              | Hermit Thrush                |
| Gadwall                   | Common Murre              | Swainson's Thrush            |
| Pintail                   | *Pigeon Guillemot         | Western Bluebird             |
| Blue-winged Teal          | Marbled Murrelet          | Ruby-crowned Kinglet         |
| *Cinnamon Teal            | Band-tailed Pigeon        | Cedar Waxwing                |
| Northern Shoveler         | *Rock Dove                | *Loggerhead Shrike           |
| *Wood Duck                | *Mourning Dove            | *Starling                    |
| Canvasback                | *Barn Owl                 | *Hutton's Vireo              |
| Greater Scaup             | Screech Owl               | *Solitary Vireo              |
| Lesser Scaup              | *Great Horned Owl         | *Warbling Vireo              |
| Harlequin Duck            | Pygmy Owl                 | Orange-crowned Warbler       |
| White-winged Scoter       | Spotted Owl               | Nashville Warbler            |
| Surf Scoter               | Short-eared Owl           | *Yellow Warbler              |
| Black Scoter              | Poorwill                  | *Black-throated Gray Warbler |
| Ruddy Duck                | Black Swift               | Townsend's Warbler           |
| Common Merganser          | *Vaux's Swift             | Hermit Warbler               |
| Turkey Vulture            | *White-throated Swift     | McGillivray's Warbler        |
| *White-tailed Kite        | Anna's Hummingbird        | Common Yellowthroat          |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk        | Allen's Hummingbird       | Yellow-breasted Chat         |
| Cooper's Hawk             | Belted Kingfisher         | Wilson's Warbler             |
| *Red-tailed Hawk          | Common Flicker            | *House Sparrow               |
| *Red-shouldered Hawk      | Pileated Woodpecker       | Western Meadowlark           |
| Golden Eagle              | Acorn Woodpecker          | Yellow-headed Blackbird      |
| Marsh Hawk                | Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  | *Red-winged Blackbird        |
| *Osprey                   | Hairy Woodpecker          | *Northern Oriole             |
| Prairie Falcon            | Downy Woodpecker          | *Brewer's Blackbird          |
| *Peregrine Falcon         | Nuttall's Woodpecker      | *Brown-headed Cowbird        |
| *American Kestrel         | *Western Kingbird         | Western Tanager              |
| *California Quail         | Ash-throated Flycatcher   | *Black-headed Grosbeak       |
| Mountain Quail            | *Black Phoebe             | Lazuli Bunting               |
| Ring-necked Pheasant      | *Western Flycatcher       | Purple Finch                 |
| Black Rail                | Western Wood Pewee        | *House Finch                 |
| Common Gallinule          | Olive-sided Flycatcher    | Pine Siskin                  |
| *American Coot            | Horned Lark               | American Goldfinch           |
| Black Oystercatcher       | *Violet-green Swallow     | *Lesser Goldfinch            |
| Semipalmated Plover       | *Tree Swallow             | Red Crossbill                |
| *Killdeer                 | *Rough-winged Swallow     | *Rufous-sided Towhee         |
| Black-bellied Plover      | *Barn Swallow             | *Brown Towhee                |
| Common Snipe              | *Cliff Swallow            | White-crowned Sparrow        |
| Long-billed Curlew        | *Purple Martin            | *Savannah Sparrow            |
| Whimbrel                  | Stellar's Jay             | *Song Sparrow                |
| Spotted Sandpiper         | *Scrub Jay                | Grasshopper Sparrow          |
| Wandering Tattler         | Common Raven              | Lark Sparrow                 |
| Willet                    | *Common Crow              | Rufous-crowned Sparrow       |
| Greater Yellowlegs        | Chestnut-backed Chickadee | Sage Sparrow                 |
|                           |                           | Dark-eyed Junco              |
|                           |                           | Chipping Sparrow             |

OBSERVATIONS

Most of the summer sightings have been exciting birds from distant parts of the state. From the desert there are: Least Bittern, Verdin, Vermillion Flycatcher, Prairie Warbler, Summer Tanager, Scott's Oriole, Plain-capped Starthroat (Doug Ellis in Arizona.) The Parmeters saw 55 Chimney Swifts in Burbank.

In the Sierras, sightings include Pine Grosbeaks, Great Gray Owl, Gray-crowned Rosy Finches, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker, Goshawk.

Local sightings include: Semi-palmated Sandpiper, Golden Plover, Red-eyed Vireo, Baird's Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper and flocks of White Pelicans all at Bodega Bay. Little Blue Herons were seen at Palo Alto Yacht Harbor in August. A Reeve and more Buff-breasted Sandpipers at Point Reyes. Hooded Orioles and Lesser Yellowlegs in Sonoma. A very early Winter Wren met his fate (cat) in Sonoma on Sept. 2. And a Pileated Woodpecker flew through downtown Sonoma on Sept. 4!

PRBO BIRD-A-THON

On October 7, 1978, PRBO is conducting a Bird-a-thon to raise money. Here's a chance to enjoy a day's birding and contribute something to PRBO too. It will work like the walk-a-thons. Participants will get sponsors to pledge a certain amount of money for each species seen during the day. If you are interested, write for forms to:

PRBO  
4990 Shoreline Highway  
Stinson Beach, Calif. 94970

IT'S HERE!

Mike Parmeter's book, Birds of Sonoma County, is hot off the press and available now! He will bring copies to the next RROS meeting (Sept. 14) or they may be ordered by mail. Send a check for \$4.74 (\$4.00 + .24 tax + .50 postage and handling) to:

Benjamin D. Parmeter  
2500 Emerson St.  
Napa, Calif. 94558

ONE LAST THING

Dues are due and overdue! Please make checks payable to RROS and mail them to: Ruth Hawksley  
51 Shadyleaf Ct.  
Santa Rosa, Calif. 95405

Dues are only \$6.00 a year. We would appreciate prompt payment. Those not current by October will not continue to receive the Kite Tales.

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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, September thru May, at 7:30 p.m. in room 221 of Darwin Hall, Sonoma State College, Rohnert Park. Membership dues, payable in May, are \$6.00 for a family, \$4.50 for individuals and \$2.00 for students. This includes a subscription to the Kite Tales. Dues may be mailed to Ruth Hawksley or presented to her at meetings.