

Kite Tales

DECEMBER

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Vol. 13, No. 4 Sonoma County, Calif.

1978

COMING ATTRACTIONS

December 14, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. RROS General Meeting

Deyea Harper and Betty Burridge made a week long visit to the Farrallon Islands. They will present their slides and experiences from this trip.

January 11, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. RROS General Meeting

The program will be by Jon Winter on his birding trip to Tierra del Fuego and Anarctica.

January 27-28, Saturday, Sunday--Field Trip

This weekend is the tentative choice for our trip to Graylodge. Leader and times will be announced in the January Kite Tales.

Christmas Counts

It's not too late to sign up for the Christmas Count(s) of your choice.

Dec. 16--Point Reyes

Dec. 17--RROS (Santa Rosa)--John Parmeter (255-6757) or John Sterling (963-7352).

Dec. 23--Lake County--Jim Matzinger (707-928-5376) or Gerry Mugele (938-2134).

Dec. 30--Marin County--Phil Schaeffer (415-388-2524).

Dec. 31--Western Sonoma County--Betty Burridge (527-0225).

December 17, Sunday--all day--RROS Christmas Count

The compilation and dinner will take place at 6 p.m. at the Recreation Hall in Brookwood Mobilehome Park. Turn north on Calistoga Road for one-plus miles to Montecito Blvd., turn west about two blocks and turn in at the sign "7000 Brookwood". Arrive early enough to eat before the final tally at 6 p.m.

January 20, Saturday (Jan. 21-raindate) Bald Eagle Survey

An accurate, meaningful survey of wintering eagles needs nationwide effort. Inquiries, comments; Raptor Information Center, National Wildlife Federation, 1412-16th St., NW. Washington, DC 20036.

Calaveras Reservoir--wintering Bald Eagles--Access: I-680 south 9 miles beyond Dublin to Calaveras Rd., go left about 10 miles to south end of reservoir. Scope almost a necessity as birding is from the road. Check shores, treetops as well as aerial. At least 8 Bald Eagles here in 1977--also Golden Eagles. Work back along the reservoir, stopping in turnouts. If the eagles are not here--they may be at the dam at the north end or anywhere in between. Best time is January, February. The road is narrow, winding---bird with caution! (The above is borrowed from THE QUAIL--the newsletter of Mt. Diablo Audubon--with thanks.)

NOVEMBER FIELD TRIP

Peter Connors led this trip to Bodega Bay. There was one banded Dunlin seen on this trip. Peter has found out that it was banded in the Yukon

(Alaska!) by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Of the Dunlin banded, this was the first report they have received.

Common Loon	Rough-legged Hawk	Anna's Hummingbird
Horned Grebe	California Quail	Common Flicker
Western Grebe	Virginia Rail	Acorn Woodpecker
Pied-billed Grebe	Sora	Black Phoebe
White Pelican	American Coot	Scrub Jay
Brown Pelican	Semi-palmated Plover	Common Raven
Double-crested Cormorant	Snowy Plover	Common Crow
Brandt's Cormorant	Killdeer	Chesnut-backed Chickadee
Pelagic Cormorant	Black-bellied Plover	Wrentit
Great Blue Heron	Ruddy Turnstone	Long-billed Marsh Wren
Snowy Egret	Black Turnstone	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Black-crowned Night Heron	Willet	Water Pipit
Pintail	Least Sandpiper	Starling
Green-winged Teal	Dunlin	Yellow-rumped Warbler
American Wigeon	Long-billed Dowitcher	Northern Waterthrush
Greater Scaup	Western Sandpiper	Common Yellowthroat
Lesser Scaup	Sanderling	Western Meadowlark
Bufflehead	Marbled Godwit	Red-winged Blackbird
White-winged Scoter	American Avocet	Northern Oriole (Baltimore)
Surf Scoter	Glaucous-winged Gull	Brewer's Blackbird
Ruddy Duck	Western Gull	House Finch
Red-breasted Merganser	California Gull	Brown Towhee
Turkey Vulture	Ring-billed Gull	White-crowned Sparrow
White-tailed Kite	Mew Gull	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Common Murre	Song Sparrow
Red-shouldered Hawk	Burrowing Owl	

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By now, most of us have had an opportunity to become familiar with BIRDS OF SONOMA COUNTY. Co-authored by charter members Mike Parmeter and the late Gordon Bollander, this book is a valuable addition to the library of anyone birding in Sonoma County.

For the past few months, Mike has been working on arrangements to transfer his remaining interest in the book to RROS for the next three years. RROS will be responsible for marketing and tax payment, and will share the receipts with Mrs. Bollander. This is a most generous gift!

The membership now has a substantial task ahead. At our last meeting, we established a committee to handle sales and distribution. Deyea Harper, Jack Arnold and Ruth Hawksley are the nucleus. We are all going to have to help! Anyone with ideas or time to help, please volunteer! Let's not waste this opportunity.

Thank you Mike, from all of us!

OBSERVATIONS by John Parmeter

After the great vagrant boom of October, November was a cooling off period for birds as well as weather. There were not nearly as many eastern varieties reported, but birding proved profitable nonetheless. Sightings were not concentrated at Point Reyes, but were spread out.

A Black-footed Albatross was seen from shore at the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse (hereafter PRL) on 11-12 (JP). Fulmars were widespread coastally, but two in Bodega Harbor 11-24 (JP) were most unusual. A minor invasion of Manx Shearwaters occurred, with approximately 25 off Bodega Head 11-11 (BDP), 20 at McKarriker St. Park 11-16 (KVV), 1 at PRL 11-12 (JP), and 2 off Salt Point 11-25 (JP). A Green Heron at the Gualala River mouth 11-25 (JA) was either late or wintering. Two Cattle Egrets were at Pine Gulch Creek, Bolinas Lagoon 11-24 (JP).

At least 52 Whistling Swans were at the Garcia River mouth (hereafter GRM) 11-25 (JA) along with 1 Canada Goose (JP). Three Whistling Swans were at Salmon Creek 11-22 (CC). Two White-fronted Geese were at a pond on Ramal Road, Sonoma 11-19 (G&KM). One Redhead was at Salmon Creek 11-22 (CC). A European Wigeon was seen in a large flock of Americans on Bolinas Lagoon 11-24 (BDP). Up to 3 possible Barrow's Goldeneyes were at the north end of Bodega Harbor 11-14 to 11-21 (DE,DS). Single Oldsquaws were at McKarriker Beach St. Park 11-16 (KVV) and Highway 37, Solano County 11-17 (KVV). Three Harlequin Ducks were along the northern Sonoma County coast 11-25 (DE,JA). Hooded Mergansers were seen as follows: 3 on the Russian River west of Duncan Mills 11-12 (DH,JH), 10 on Highway 37, Solano County 11-17 (KVV), 2 at the Gualala River mouth 11-25 (JA), and 4 females on the pond at 5 Brooks Stables 12-3 (BB,GM).

Rough-legged Hawks were reported widely along the coast. A single Ferruginous Hawk was seen near the Bodega Bay golf course 11-11 (DS) and again 11-14 (DE). The Madrone field trip found a Bald Eagle at Graylodge 11-18. A Prairie Falcon was seen at GRM 11-25 (JP), another Prairie Falcon at Goat Rock 11-12 (DH, JH), and a Peregrine was still at PRL 11-12 (JP).

An American Golden Plover was at the Spaletta Ranch 11-12 (JW, DS). A Rock Sandpiper was at Bodega Head 11-24 (LCB). Three Ancient Murrelets were seen off the northern Sonoma County coast 11-25 (JA).

A Roadrunner was seen on Butts Canyon Road, Napa County 12-2 (GM). A trip up Mt. St. Helena 11-26 produced 10 White-throated Swifts, 2 Canon Wrens and 6 Townsend's Solitaires (BDP,JP,JS,DE). A Brown Thrasher was at the Bodega Bay "rail ponds" 11-8 (DS). Two Phainopeplas and 2 Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers were at Lake Solano, Solano County 11-18 (KVV,JP).

A Tennessee Warbler was at the Bodega Bay "rail ponds" 11-24 (KVV), and 2 others were at Nunes Ranch, Pt. Reyes (hereafter NR) 11-4 (JP). A late Nashville Warbler was at NR 11-4, along with 2 Palm Warblers (KVV,DE). A Black-throated Gray Warbler was Lake Solano 11-18 (KVV). A Palm Warbler was at the Bodega "rail ponds" 11-11 (DE,BDP), and the Northern Waterthrush remained there throughout the month. A female Hooded Warbler was in Muir Woods 11-24 (BDP).

A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was at Pine Gulch, Bolinas Lagoon 11-4 (KVV). Two Lapland Longspurs were heard near Bodega Bay 11-6 (JP), and Laplands and Chesnut-collareds remained on Pt. Reyes until 11-12 (BDP). A Snow Bunting was found at McKarriker Beach St. Park 11-13 (Mendoncino Audubon) and another was at GRM 11-16 (KVV).

Observers: John Arnold, L.C. Binford, Betty Burridge, Carolyn Connors,

Doug Ellis, Deyea Harper, Joel Hornstein, Gerry and Kathy Mugele, Benjamin D. Parmeter, John Parmeter, Dave Schuford, John Sterling, Kent Van Vuren, Jon Winter. (Call John Parmeter (255-6757) with sightings.)

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 through May at 7:30 p.m. in room 221 of Darwin Hall, Sonoma State College, Rohnert Park.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT Gerald Mugele P.O. Box 790 Sonoma, Ca 938-2134

VICE-PRESIDENT Bob McLean 20715 5th St East Sonoma, Ca 938-5012

SECRETARY Betty Burridge 963 Crest Dr Santa Rosa, Ca 527-0225

TREASURER Ruth Hawksley 51 Shadyleaf Ct Santa Rosa, Ca 539-0560

KITE TALES EDITOR Kathy Mugele P.O. Box 790 Sonoma, Ca 938-2134

FIELD TRIPS Doug Ellis P.O. Box 155 Eldridge, Ca 833-4344

SOCIAL CHAIRPERSON Eleanor Tucker 1309 Denlyn St Novato, Ca 415-892-2193