

# Kite Tales

SEPTEMBER

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
Vol. 14, No. 1

1979

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

### September 13, Thursday, 6:30 p.m. RROs General Meeting & Potluck

It's here! The first meeting and annual potluck dinner will be held at the group picnic area at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park. To get there, take Hiwy 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. There will be no admission charge to RROS members or guests. Bring your own utensils (silverware, plates, cups) and a favorite goodie. Dinner always turns out well without elaborate plans. We will go owling (Poor-willing?) after supper and a short business meeting.

### September 15, Saturday, Field Trip to Bodega Bay

Jack Arnold will lead this trip to look for fall migrants. Meet him at 8 a.m. at the upper parking lot at the Tides. Bring lunch, binoculars, jacket and a friend. Let's have a good turn out for this first field trip of the season.

### September 29, Saturday, PRBO Second Annual BIRDATHON

There's still lots of time to round up your sponsors to help make this second Birdathon a success. For details, write; Birdathon, PRBO, 4990 Shoreline Hiway, Stinson Beach, Ca 94970.

### October 7, Sunday, Field Trip to Point Reyes

Meet Mike Parmeter at 8 a.m. at the Drakes Beach parking lot. We'll carpool here for the rest of the day to search out the good birding places along the Marin Coast.

### November 24, Saturday, NAS California BIRDATHON

National Audubon is sponsoring a California BIRDATHON on Nov. 24, to raise funds for the protection of the California Condor and Mono Lake. Participants will try to see as many bird species as possible in Calif. during a 24 hour period beginning at 12:01 a.m., 24 Nov 1974. Prior to the event, each participant will solicit tax deductible pledges from sponsors (friends, neighbors, businesses) for each species seen. More than \$10,000 in prizes will be awarded in various statewide and regional categories including most money raised, most species seen and, for Audubon chapters, the most members participating.

Below is the official form which should be completed and mailed with the donations to:

Western Regional Office  
National Audubon Society  
555 Audubon Place  
Sacramento, Ca 95825



NOTE: Winners of statewide prizes are not eligible for regional prizes. In the case of a tie winners will be determined by a drawing.

**Region I (Northern California)** Butte, Colusa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Yolo, Yuba

**Region II (Bay Area)** Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma

**Region III (Central California)** Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Mono, Monterey, San Benito, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Stanislaus, Tulare, Tuolumne

**Region IV (Southern California)** Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Ventura

**AUDUBON'S  
CALIFORNIA BIRDATHON PLEDGE FORM**

**AUDUBON'S  
CALIFORNIA BIRDATHON  
DONATION SUBMITTAL FORM**

Name/Business \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I am willing to sponsor your effort in the California BIRDATHON for the furtherance of the National Audubon Society's important work in preserving the California Condor, saving Mono Lake and in other important wildlife conservation issues.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

My Pledge Amount \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ number of species observed

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Donations to the National Audubon Society.

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY.

Please complete the form below and submit with collected donations by 14 December 1979.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Species Seen I \_\_\_\_\_, II \_\_\_\_\_, III \_\_\_\_\_, IV \_\_\_\_\_, Total \_\_\_\_\_  
(by region)

BOOKS TO BUY

Birds of Sonoma County by Gordon Bollander and B.D. Parmeter. Send a check for \$4.74 (\$4.00 + .24 + .50 handling) to Dr. John Arnold, 199 Calistoga Rd, Santa Rosa, Ca 95404.

Birds of Northern California by Paul Debenedictus, Guy McKaskie, Dick Erickson and Joe Morlan. Send \$5.80 for post-paid copy to Golden Gate Audubon, 2718 Telegraph Suite 206, Berkeley, Ca 94705.

OBSERVATIONS by Mike Parmeter

The following bird observations made during the summer are of interest:

A flock of an estimated 5000 Sooty Shearwaters was seen offshore from Ocean Beach in San Francisco on June 11 (Doug Ellis, John Parmeter). on August 19, a flock of an estimated 1,000,000 (!!) shearwaters was present between Lands End and the Marin Headlands (Mary Louise Rosegay). Two Magnificent Frigatebirds (immature) were observed flying south of Wrights Beach on July 14 (Carlyle Manous). A single immature was seen at Arch Rock on Aug. 9 (JP, Kent Van Vuren).

A Least Bittern was heard calling at Graylodge Refuge on Aug. 4 (JP, MP, KVV, L.C. Binford). This bird was one of 164 species seen on a Big Day on that date by the mentioned observers. Blue-winged Teal: 2 near Bridggehaven on May 12 (Betty Burridge, DE). Bufflehead: a female was present at the Bodega Bay sewer ponds on Aug. 1 (KVV, JP), Aug. 3 (DE) and Aug. 4 (KVV, JP). This is an unusual time for this bird which may have summered at the bay. Common Merganser: 60-70 birds in a flock were present at the mouth of the Gualala River on Aug. 2 (DE). A female Common Merganser was seen with four flightless young at the mouth of Salmon Creek Aug. 4 (KVV, LCB, JP, MP). This is one of only a few verified breeding records for Sonoma County.

Swainson's Hawk: 3 nesting pair in the delta area near Rio Vista (DE). A female Blue Grouse with small chicks was seen near Bridalveil Camp-ground in Yosemite on July 4 (JP, DE, MP).

An unbanded Snowy Plover was present near the junction of Hiways 37 and 29 in Solano County on Aug. 15 (MP, KVV). A Red Knot was seen on Aug. 2 at the mouth of the Gualala River (DE). On Aug 1, a single Baird's Sandpiper was present at Salmon Creek (KVV, JP). This is the only fall record I know of to this date (8-23). A single Dunlin in breeding plumage was seen in a pond off Hiway 37 in Solano County on Aug. 15 (MP, KVV). This may have been a summering bird. Two adult Least Terns were present

at the same spot on July 24 (JP, John Sterling), and a single bird was here on Aug. 15 (KVV,MP). Also here on July 31 was an immature Black Tern (JP, KVV). Another immature Black Tern was noted at Skaggs Island in Solano Co. on Aug. 4 (LCB, KVV, JP). Marbled Murrelets were present in good numbers near the mouth of the Russian River in late July and August. A single Rhinoceros Auklet in breeding plumage flew from Arch Rock on Aug. 4 (LCB, KVV, JP) and on Aug. 7, 2 Rhinos were seen at the same spot (DE). Tufted Puffins were found at Arch Rock on July 31 (Jeri Langham). On Aug. 4, 3 adult birds were seen (LCB, KVV, JP), and again on Aug. 7 (DE).

At least 2 Yellow-billed Cuckoos were heard and one was seen north of Glenn, Glenn Co. on July 22 (JP, MP,DE). On Aug. 4, a single Yellow-billed Cuckoo was heard north of Meridian, Sutter Co. (LCB, KVV, JP).

On the evening of July 4, a single Flammulated Owl was heard several times at Henness Ridge in Yosemite (MP, DE, JP). Spotted Owls were noted in Willow Creek canyon several times during the summer. A Great Gray Owl was heard calling at Crane Flat, Yosemite on July 5 (JP, DE).

Costa's Hummingbird: the male bird coming to the feeder on Dry Creek Road was present at least through Aug. 5 (Anyone know of a later date?) A pair of Black-backed 3-toed Woodpeckers was heard and seen at Westfall Meadow, Yosemite on July 4 (MP, JP, DE). Purple Martins, always scarce, were present at the Gualala Bridge on Aug. 2 (8 birds) (DE) and on Aug. 3 just north of Gualala 15 birds were seen (DE). Red-breasted Nuthatches were noted at Annadel on June 9 and at Salmon Creek Road on Aug. 7 (DE).

The season's "biggest" bird was an adult White Wagtail which was found at the Watsonville sewer ponds. It was first seen on Aug. 7 and remained at least, thru Aug. 21. Local birders who saw it include BB, DE, Wayne Tillay, JP, MP, JS). An early migrant Hermit Warbler was present in the canyon on the west side of Bodega Harbor on Aug 7 (DE). Hooded Orioles returned to Sonoma where they again nested. Blue Grosbeaks were noted several times in valley locations including Glenn, Meridian and near Rio Vista.

A male Indigo Bunting was present near the park headquarters at Point Reyes National Seashore through much of the summer. It was seen and heard singing on June 22 by DE and JP. 15-20 Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were present at Lake Ellery near Tioga Pass on July 5 (MP,JP, DE). Lawrence's Goldfinches were seen several times in early August on Salmon Creek Road. They apparently nested here, as a juvenile bird was seen (DE, JP, KVV). An Unusual sighting was a Brewer's Sparrow north of Meridian on Aug. 4 (LCB, JP, KVV, MP). This is an early date for a bird which is, in any event, rare in the Sacramento Valley.

Please phone or write with any interesting observations.

Mike Parmeter  
2500 Emerson St  
Napa, Ca 94558  
707-255-6757

DUES

Remember! Your 1979-1980 dues are payable now. Send your dues to Ruth Hawksley, 51 Shadyleaf Ct, Santa Rosa, Ca 95405. ( Family--\$6.00 Individual--\$4.50, Student--\$2.00)

.....  
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.  
.....

- President Bob McLean 20715 5th St east Sonoma 938-5012
- Vice President Betty Burrige 963 Crest Dr Santa Rosa 527-0225
- Secretary Deyea Harper 2310 Northwood Santa Rosa 542-1542
- Treasurer Ruth Hawksley 51 Shadyleaf Ct Santa Rosa 95405
- Field Trips & Observations Mike Parmeter 2500 Emerson St Napa 255-6757
- Social Chairperson Terry Colborn 335 Pythian Road North Santa Rosa
- Kite Tales Editor Kathy Mugele P.O. Box 790 Sonoma 938-2134
- Christmas Count Compiler Gerry Mugele P.). Box 790 Sonoma 938-2134

