

# Kite Tales

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OCTOBER

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
Vol. 14, No. 2

1979

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

Meet leader Mike Parmeter at 8 a.m. at the Drake's Beach parking lot. Bring a lunch and be prepared to see some good fall migrants at some of the good birding spots in Marin County.

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

Jon Winter will talk on identifying fall warblers with emphasis on Point Reyes. As you will see from the Observations list, this is a good fall for vagrant warblers. So come to the meeting and pick up some tips on how to identify them.

## November 10, Saturday, Field Trip to Willow Creek/Jenner

Doug Ellis will lead this trip. Details to be announced in the November Kite Tales.

## November 24, Saturday, NAS California BIRDATHON

Contact the Western Regional Office, National Audubon Society, 555 Audubon Place, Sacramento, Ca 95825, if you are interested in participating. Proceeds will be used for the protection of the California Condor and Mono Lake.

## December 16, Sunday, Santa Rosa Christmas Count

Plan now to attend another record breaking Christmas Count. We will need a new place to hold the compilation supper. If you have any suggestions, please contact Gerry Mugele at 938-2134. Other counts to keep in mind: Point Reyes (Dec. 15), Southern Marin (Dec. 29), Western Sonoma County (Dec. 30), and Angwin (Jan. 1).

## OLD BUSINESS

Our first meeting and potluck was its usual outstanding success! (Infact, suggestions were overheard for having another in the spring?) The most important business was to present Mike Parmeter with an honorary life membership in RROS in gratitude for his gift of The Birds of Sonoma County. Thank you, Mike, for this, and for everything else that you have done and continue to do for the club!

## RROS LIFE LIST

John Parmeter has compiled the all-time lifelist of RROS. It includes regular field trips, Santa Rosa Christmas Counts, Bodega Bay offshore trips (RROS), and Spring Round-ups. The total is 309 species. If anyone has some to add, let us know.

Common Loon

Arctic Loon

Red-throated Loon

Red-necked Grebe

Horned Grebe

Long-billed Curlew

Whimbrel

Spotted Sandpiper

Wandering Tattler

Willet

Clark's Nutcracker

Mountain Chickadee

Chesnut-backed Chickadee

Plain Titmouse

Bushtit

Eared Grebe	Greater Yellowlegs	White-breasted Nuthatch
Western Grebe	Lesser Yellowlegs	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Pied-billed Grebe	Red Knot	Pygmy Nuthatch
Black-footed Albatross	Surfbird	Brown Creeper
Northern Fulmar	Rock Sandpiper	Wrentit
Pink-footed Shearwater	Pectoral Sandpiper	Dipper
Flesh-footed Shearwater	Least Sandpiper	House Wren
New Zealand Shearwater	Baird's Sandpiper	Winter Wren
Sooty Shearwater	Dunlin	Bewick's Wren
Fork-tailed Storm Petrel	Short-billed Dowitcher	Long-billed Marsh Wren
Leach's Storm Petrel	Long-billed Dowitcher	Canyon Wren
Ashy Storm Petrel	Western Sandpiper	Rock Wren
Black Storm Petrel	Sanderling	Mockingbird
White Pelican	Marbled Godwit	Brown Thrasher
Brown Pelican	American Avocet	California Thrasher
Double-crested Cormorant	Black-necked Stilt	Sage Thrasher
Brandt's Cormorant	Red Phalarope	American Robin
Pelagic Cormorant	Wilson's Phalarope	Varied Thrush
Great Blue Heron	Northern Phalarope	Hermit Thrush
Green Heron	Pomarine Jaeger	Swainson's Thrush
Little Blue Heron	Parasitic Jaeger	Western Bluebird
Cattle Egret	Skua	Mountain Bluebird
Great Egret	Glaucous-winged Gull	Townsend's Solitaire
Snowy Egret	Western Gull	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Black-crowned Night Heron	Herring Gull	Golden-crowned Kinglet
American Bittern	Thayer's Gull	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Whistling Swan	California Gull	Red-throated Pipit
Trumpeter Swan	Ring-billed Gull	Water Pipit
Canada Goose	Mew Gull	Bohemian Waxwing
Black Brant	Bonaparte's Gull	Cedar Waxwing
White-fronted Goose	Heermann's Gull	Phainopepla
Snow Goose	Black-legged Kittiwake	Northern Shrike
Ross' Goose	Sabine's Gull	Loggerhead Shrike
Mallard	Forster's Tern	Starling
Gadwall	Common Tern	Hutton's Vireo
Pintail	Arctic Tern	Solitary Vireo
Green-winged Teal	Elegant Tern	Red-eyed Vireo
Blue-winged Teal	Caspian Tern	Warbling Vireo
Cinnamon Teal	Black Tern	Black and White Warbler
European Wigeon	Common Murre	Worm-eating Warbler
American Wigeon	Pigeon Guillemot	Tennessee Warbler
Northern Shoveler	Marbled Murrelet	Orange-crowned Warbler
Wood Duck	Xantu's Murrelet	Nashville Warbler
Redhead	Ancient Murrelet	Yellow Warbler
Ring-necked Duck	Cassin's Auklet	Black-throated Gray Warbler
Canvasback	Rhinoceros Auklet	Hermit Warbler
Greater Scaup	Tufted Puffin	Blackpoll Warbler
Lesser Scaup	Band-tailed Pigeon	Palm Warbler
Common Goldeneye	Rock Dove	Northern Waterthrush
Bufflehead	Mourning Dove	McGillivray's Warbler
Oldsquaw	Barn Owl	Common Yellowthroat
White-winged Scoter	Screech Owl	Yellow-breasted Chat
Surf Scoter	Great Horned Owl	Wilson's Warbler
Black Scoter	Pygmy Owl	American Redstart
Ruddy Duck	Burrowing Owl	House Sparrow
Hooded Merganser	Spotted Owl	Western Meadowlark

Common Merganser	Short-eared Owl	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Red-breasted Merganser	Saw-whet Owl	Red-winged Blackbird
Turkey Vulture	Poorwill	Tricolored Blackbird
White-tailed Kite	Black Swift	Northern Oriole
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Vaux's Swift	Brewer's Blackbird
Cooper's Hawk	White-throated Swift	Brown-headed Cowbird
Red-tailed Hawk	Anna's Hummingbird	Western Tanager
Red-shouldered Hawk	Rufous Hummingbird	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Broad-winged Hawk	Allen's Hummingbird	Black-headed Grosbeak
Rough-winged Hawk	Belted Kingfisher	Lazuli Bunting
Ferruginous Hawk	Common Flicker	Evening Grosbeak
Golden Eagle	Pileated Woodpecker	Purple Finch
Bald Eagle	Acorn Woodpecker	Cassin's Finch
Marsh Hawk	Lewis Woodpecker	House Finch
Osprey	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Pine Siskin
Prairie Falcon	Williamson's Sapsucker	American Goldfinch
Peregrine Falcon	Hairy Woodpecker	Lesser Goldfinch
Merlin	Downy Woodpecker	Lawrence's Goldfinch
American Kestrel	Nuttall's Woodpecker	Red Crossbill
Sage Grouse	White-headed Woodpecker	Rufous-sided Towhee
California Quail	Western Kingbird	Brown Towhee
Mountained Quail	Ash-throated Flycatcher	Savannah Sparrow
Ring-necked Pheasant	Black Phoebe	Grasshopper Sparrow
Chukar	Say's Phoebe	Vesper Sparrow
Turkey	Willow Flycatcher	Lark Sparrow
Sandhill Crane	Western Flycatcher	Rufous-crowned Sparrow
Clapper Rail	Western Wood Pewee	Sage Sparrow
Virginia Rail	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Dark-eyed Junco
Sora	Horned Lark	Tree Sparrow
Black Rail	Violet-green Swallow	Chipping Sparrow
Common Gallinule	Tree Swallow	Black-chinned Sparrow
American Coot	Rough-winged Swallow	Harris' Sparrow
Black Oystercatcher	Barn Swallow	White-crowned Sparrow
Semipalmated Plover	Cliff Swallow	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Snowy Plover	Purple Martin	White-throated Sparrow
Killdeer	Steller's Jay	Fox Sparrow
American Golden Plover	Scrub Jay	Lincoln's Sparrow
Black-bellied Plover	Black-billed Magpie	Swamp Sparrow
Ruddy Turnstone	Yellow-billed Magpie	Song Sparrow
Black Turnstone	Common Raven	Lapland Longspur
Common Snipe	Common Crow	Chesnut-collared Longspur
	Pinon Jay	

#### FIELD TRIP RESULTS

Our two field trips have both been to Bodega Bay (August 26 and September 15). We thought it would be interesting to present them side by side for comparison. Beginning with the September trip, the Kite Tales will print the number of birds seen of each species. Hopefully, this will be a somewhat permanent record of what has been seen.

August (74 species)

Red-throated Loon  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Brown Pelican

September (79 species)

Red-throated Loon (2)  
Red-necked Grebe (1)  
Western Grebe (1)

August

Double-crested Cormorant  
 Brandt's Cormorant  
 Pelagic Cormorant  
 Great Blue Heron  
 Snowy Egret  
 Black-crowned Night Heron  
 White-winged Scoter  
 Turkey Vulture  
 Red-tailed Hawk  
 Osprey  
 American Kestrel  
 California Quail  
 American Coot  
 Black Oystercatcher  
 Semipalmated Plover  
 Snowy Plover  
 Killdeer  
 Black-bellied Plover  
 Ruddy Turnstone  
 Black Turnstone  
 Whimbrel  
 Spotted Sandpiper  
 Wandering Tattler  
 Willet  
 Greater Yellowlegs  
 Least Sandpiper  
 Baird's Sandpiper  
 Short-billed Dowitcher  
 Long-billed Dowitcher  
 Western Sandpiper  
 Sanderling  
 Marbled Godwit  
 Northern Phalarope  
 Glaucous-winged Gull  
 Western Gull  
 California Gull  
 Ring-billed Gull  
 Heermann's Gull  
 Forster's Tern  
 Caspian Tern  
 Common Murre  
 Pigeon Guillemot  
 Rock Dove  
 Mourning Dove  
 Great Horned Owl  
 Anna's Hummingbird  
 Allen's Hummingbird  
 Belted Kingfisher  
 Black Phoebe  
 Willow Flycatcher  
 Barn Swallow  
 Cliff Swallow  
 Scrub Jay  
 Common Raven

September

Pied-billed Grebe (3-5)  
 White Pelican (25±)  
 Brown Pelican (5-10)  
 Double-crested Cormorant (5+)  
 Brandt's Cormorant (15+)  
 Pelagic Cormorant (15+)  
 Great Blue Heron (2)  
 Great Egret (2)  
 Snowy Egret (4)  
 Black-crowned Night Heron (3)  
 Pintail (10+)  
 Cinnamon Teal (3)  
 Bufflehead (1)  
 White-winged Scoter (25±)  
 Turkey Vulture (3)  
 Red-tailed Hawk (2)  
 Marsh Hawk (1)  
 American Kestrel (2)  
 California Quail (5+)  
 Virginia Rail (3)  
 Sora (2)  
 Black Oystercatcher (2)  
 Semipalmated Plover (5±)  
 Snowy Plover (25+)  
 Killdeer (5+)  
 Black-bellied Plover (15±)  
 Ruddy Turnstone (10+)  
 Wandering Tattler (1)  
 Willet (50+)  
 Least Sandpiper (100+)  
 Short-billed Dowitcher (15+)  
 Long-billed Dowitcher (15+)  
 Western Sandpiper (25+)  
 Sanderling (15+)  
 Marbled Godwit (500+)  
 Northern Phalarope  
 \*Parasitic Jaeger (1)  
 Glaucous-winged Gull (3-5)  
 Western Gull (50±)  
 Ring-billed Gull (100±)  
 Heermann's Gull (5+)  
 Forster's Tern (5+)  
 Common Murre (5-15)  
 Pigeon Guillemot (1)  
 Mourning Dove (1)  
 Great Horned Owl (1)  
 Anna's Hummingbird (2)  
 Rufous Hummingbird (4)  
 Allen's Hummingbird (4)  
 Belted Kingfisher (2)  
 Downy Woodpecker (1)  
 Black Phoebe (3+)  
 Willow Flycatcher (1?)  
 Barn Swallow (100±)

August

Bushtit  
 Red-breasted Nuthatch  
 Long-billed Marsh Wren  
 Swainson's Thrush  
 Starling  
 Yellow Warbler  
 House Sparrow  
 Western Meadowlark  
 Red-winged Blackbird  
 Tricolored Blackbird  
 Brewer's Blackbird  
 Brown-headed Cowbird  
 House Finch  
 American Goldfinch  
 Savannah Sparrow  
 White-crowned Sparrow  
 Song Sparrow

September

Scrub Jay (3-5)  
 Common Raven (2-5)  
 Bushtit (3+)  
 Bewick's Wren (3)  
 Long-billed Marsh Wren (1)  
 Western Bluebird (3)  
 Loggerhead Shrike (1)  
 Starling (25±)  
 Orange-crowned Warbler (2)  
 Yellow Warbler (2)  
 Wilson's Warbler (1)  
 Western Meadowlark (3+)  
 Red-winged Blackbird (50±)  
 Brewer's Blackbird (25±)  
 House Finch (50+)  
 Pine Siskin (3-5)  
 American Goldfinch (100±)  
 Brown Towhee (1)  
 Savannah Sparrow (15+)  
 White-crowned Sparrow (10+)  
 Fox Sparrow (1)  
 Song Sparrow (3)

BIRD GOODIES

Birds of Sonoma County by Gordon Bollander and B. D. Parmeter. Send a check for \$4.74 (\$4.00 + .24 tax + .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.

1980 California Birder's Calendar --black and white drawings by Pedro J. Gonzales also features notes by Stephen Bailey of all rare birds sighted in the state six times or fewer as well as suggestions for productive birding areas at various times of the year. There is also a bar graph showing the annual migratory distribution of birds in the state. Send check for \$5.50 (includes postage) to Golden Gate Audubon, 2718 Telegraph Suite 206, Berkeley, Ca 94705.

OBSERVATIONS by Mike Parmeter

Red-necked Grebe: single bird at Doran Park 9-21 (John Parmeter), 4 birds at Drake's Beach 9-22 and 6 birds at Limantour on the same date (JP, Doug Ellis). Horned Grebe: single bird at Doran Park 9-21 (Benjamin D. Parmeter, DE). Eared Grebe: adult with 2 young at Petaluma sewer ponds. Young appeared to be flightless and begged for food. This constitutes the first Sonoma County breeding record 8-25-79 (Betty Burridge). Canada Goose: small flock near Kenwood 9-8 (Gerry & Kathy Mugele). Common Merganser: 34 birds at Bridgehaven on 9-15 and 4 birds on the same date at Salmon Creek (DE).

Broad-winged Hawk: single bird at Point Diablo on 9-23 (DE). Three additional birds had been seen at the same spot earlier in the day by Rich Stallcup. Ferruginous Hawk: an immature in light plumage at Point Reyes on 9-22 (JP, DE, BDP). A Prairie Falcon was present on outer Point Reyes on 9-9 (L.C. Binford, JP, BDP, DE). Peregrine Falcon: a bird was present at

at Bodega Harbor from at least 9-12 to 9-22. It was most often seen at the SE corner of the lagoon, often putting the shorebirds into a state of panic (BDP). An adult male Merlin was seen well at the Mendoza Ranch at Point Reyes on 9-22 (BDP, DE, JP).

American Golden Plover: 6 birds at RCA Station at Point Reyes on 9-9 (LCB, BDP). A Solitary Sandpiper was present at Laguna Lake on the Marin County-Sonoma County Border on 9-2. The observer, David Shuford, is not certain which county the bird was actually in at the time of the sighting. Lesser Yellowlegs are sometimes seen in good numbers during the fall migration. On 9-2, David Shuford saw 14 birds at Laguna Lake, and on 9-9, the Parmeters and Doug Ellis saw 3 birds at the same site. Pectoral Sandpipers: a single bird at Laguna Lake on 9-2 (DS). A single bird was at Bodega Harbor on 9-16 (LCB). Doug Ellis saw a flock of 15 Pectorals at the Lodi sewer ponds on 9-20. On 9-22, there was a single bird at Salmon Creek (BDP, Jack Arnold, DE). There were at least 6 records for Baird's Sandpiper in our area during the month: Bodega Harbor--1, 9-16 (LCB); Bodega Harbor--2, 9-12 (BDP, JP); Laguna Lake--1, 9-2 (DS); Salmon Creek--1, 9-21 (Phil Lenna, JP, DE); and Limantour--3, 9-22 (BDP, DE, PL).

An unusual concentration of Marbled Godwits was at the mouth of Sonoma Creek on San Pablo Bay on 9-19--an estimated flock of 2000-3000 birds (DE). Four hundred Avocets were at Laguna Lake on 9-2 (DS). A single light phase Parasitic Jaeger was present at the SE corner of Bodega Harbor between 9-15 and 9-22 (JA, LCB, BDP, DE). The big news of the month was the presence of one (or two) Buff-breasted Sandpipers at Doran Park between 9-7 and 9-16 (Peter and Carolyn Connors, DS, BDP, JP). On September 16, the bird was seen on the golf course at Bodega Bay (LCB).

Common Tern, an uncommon fall migrant in our area, was noted several times. A single bird was present in a flock of 25 Forsters Terns at Bodega Harbor on 8-25 (BDP, JP, Kent Van Vuren). Four birds were at Bodega Harbor on 9-5 (DE, Hal Corey), and 4 birds at Bodega Harbor on 9-16 (LCB). There were also multiple records for Elegant Terns: 2 birds on 8-25 at Bodega Harbor (BDP, JP, KVV); 12 birds were at Bodega Harbor on 9-16 (LCB); and several birds at Doran Park on 9-21 (BDP, DE, PL, JA). A least Tern was present at Bodega Harbor, this was early in September (Pete Myers -- the exact date is not known at this time, however Peter Connors is obtaining this information).

A Poorwill was calling at Sargarloaf Ridge State Park the night of our annual potluck, 9-13 (JP). A Pileated Woodpecker called several times and was seen flying at the same spot prior to the meeting (Bob Failing, BDP, JP). Willow Flycatchers, a regular fall migrant passed through in Sept. Doug Ellis REported 3 observations. Redbreasted Nuthatches have "exploded" from the mountains. Everywhere one goes this fall, the birds are seen and heard calling. Brian McCaffrey, who spent this past summer on the Alaskan northslope tundra, reported hearing and seeing a Yellow Wagtail in flight at the SE corner of Bodega Harbor. His summer work had made him thoroughly familiar with the species. However, despite careful searching by at least 25 persons, the bird could not be relocated.

John Sterling reported a Black-and-white Warbler at the Nunes Ranch at Point Reyes on 9-12. One (perhaps 2) Northern Parula Warbler(s) spent several days at Lands End in San Francisco. They were seen on 9-6 by BDP, JP, DE. A Prairie Warbler was present at the Fish Docks on 9-9 (LCB, JP,

BDP, DE). A Summer Tanager, adult male, was seen at Lands End on 9-6 (BDP, DE, JP). An adult male Indigo Bunting in molt plumage was found at Pacific Grove, Monterey County on 9-3 (BDP, JP, JA). A single immature Evening Grosbeak was in our yard in Napa on 9-23 (JP, BDP). Many Red Cross-bills were at Lands End on 9-6 (BDP, JP, DE). These birds, together with the Red-breasted Nuthatches and the Evening Grosbeak, certainly suggest a montane invasion year. Be looking for other mountain species. A Vesper Sparrow was at the feeder of Bob McLean on 9-17, as was an early Lincoln's Sparrow. A single Lapland Longspur was seen at the Hall Ranch, Point Reyes on 9-22 (JP, DE, BDP). American Redstart--single bird at Lands End, 9-23 (DE).

Add to The Birds of Sonoma County:

Least Tern--2 birds at Bodega Bay, June 23, 1977 (Hal Corey, Jim wilson, Warren Minion).

The bird reported in this month's Observations is the second county sighting.

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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. Dues are payable in September and should be mailed to: Ruth Hawksley, 51 Shady leaf Ct, Santa Rosa 95405. ( Family--\$6.00 Individual--\$4.50 Student--\$2.00)

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- President Bob McLean 20715 5th St East Sonoma 938-5012
- Vice-president Betty Burridge 963 Crest Dr Santa Rosa 527-0225
- Secretary Deyea Harper 2310 Northwood Santa Rosa 542-1542
- Treasurer Ruth Hawksley 51 Shadyleaf Ct Santa Rosa 539-0560
- Field Trips & Observations Mike Parmeter 2500 Emerson St Napa 255-6757
- Social Chairperson Terry Colborn 335 Pythian Rd North Santa Rosa 539-4157
- Kite Tales Editor Kathy Mugele P.O. Box 790 Sonoma, Ca 9382134
- Christmas Count Compiler Gerry Mugele P.O. 790 Sonoma 938-2134