

Kite Tales

FEBRUARY

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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1980

COMING ATTRACTIONS

February 14, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. RROS General Meeting (& Happy Valentine's Day!)
Sandy Boyce will present a program on Peregrine Falcons.

February 17, Sunday, 9 a.m. Field Trip to Annadel State Park
Meet leader Betty Burridge at the parking lot at the end of Channel Drive.
Bring lunches, warm clothes and hot tea! Be on the look out for early
spring arrivals. (Come rain or come shine!)

A LECTURE COURSE ON SPECIAL PROBLEMS IN FIELD IDENTIFICATION

This course is designed for birders who have become aware of the limitations of their field guides and wish to expand their field identification abilities. The material deals mainly with groups of birds that are difficult to identify such as immature gulls, shorebirds, fall warblers, immature and winter plumaged sparrows, longspurs, hawks, Empidonax flycatchers. The course is broken into six different lectures given over a six week period. Each lecture is approx. 3 hours long. Material is presented with slides and will be taught by Jon Winter.

SCHEDULE

Lecture 1	Fall warblers, immature and winter sparrows, longspurs
Lecture 2	Gulls and Alcids
Lecture 3	Orioles, thrushes, juncos, black-birds, <u>Empidonax</u> & <u>Myiarchus</u> flycatchers
Lecture 4	Female ducks, <u>Accipter</u> and <u>Buteo</u> Hawks, falcons, winter loons, grebes, terns and shorebirds
Lecture 5	Petrels, shearwaters, immature cormarants, vireos, kinglets, pipits, female tanagers
Lecture 6	Shrikes, thrashers, <u>Carpodacus</u> finches, sapsuckers, woodpeckers, female gros-beaks and finches

For more information contact: Jon Winter
1158 Humboldt St #7
Santa Rosa, Ca 95404
(707) 528-7488

Cost: \$36.00 per person

OLD BUSINESS

The January meeting included a memorable program by Joel Hornstein which included outstanding slides of birds, wildlife and scenery of California and parts of the U.S. Members voted to send \$50.00 to the Gordon Bollander Memorial Fund at PRBO. And most important--Dr John Arnold was voted (unanimously) an honorary Life Member of RROS!

SNOWY PLOVER WINTER SURVEY

PRBO needs people (that's us!) to walk beaches and census Snowy Plovers this winter. "All we ask is that people walk beaches, count all Snowy Plovers, look at their legs for color bands, and report their findings to us. We ask people to select their favorite beach and walk once a month, but even if you don't have time for this bit go onto a beach once this winter, we would appreciate any observations you might make. " Contact Gary Page, PRBO, 4990 State Route 1, Stinson Beach, Ca 94970 with observations or for more information.

ANGWIN CHRISTMAS COUNT RESULTS--Wayne Tillay, compiler

Horned Grebe	Bald Eagle	Downy Woodpecker
Western Grebe	Osprey	Nuttall's Woodpecker
Pied-billed Grebe	Merlin	Black Phoebe
Double-crested Cormorant	American Kestrel	Say's Phoebe
Great Blue Heron	California Quail	Tree Swallow
Green Heron	Mountain Quail	Steller's Jay
Great Egret	Virginia Rail	Scrub Jay
Snowy Egret	Sora	Common Raven
Canada Goose	American Coot	Common Crow
Mallard	Killdeer	Ches.-backed Chickadee
Gadwall	Common Snipe	Plain Titmouse
Pintail	Spotted Sandpiper	Bushtit
Green-winged Teal	Greater Yellowlegs	Wh. Breasted Nuthatch
American Wigeon	Least Sandpiper	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Northern Shoveler	Herring Gull	Pygmy Nuthatch
Wood Duck	California Gull	Brown Creeper
Redhead	Ring-billed Gull	Wrentit
Ring-necked Duck	Mew Gull	Winter Wren
Canvasback	Bonaparte's Gull	Bewick's Wren
Greater Scaup	Band-tailed Pigeon	Long-billed Marsh Wren
Lesser Scaup	Rock Dove	Rock Wren
Common Goldeneye	Mourning Dove	Mockingbird
Barrow's Goldeneye	Barn Owl	California Thrasher
Bufflehead	Screech Owl	American Robin
Ruddy Duck	Great Horned Owl	Varied Thrush
Hooded Merganser	Pygmy Owl	Hermit Thrush
Common Merganser	Anna's Hummingbird	Western Blue bird
Turkey Vulture	Belted Kingfisher	Golden-crowned Kinglet
White-tailed Kite	Common Flicker	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Pileated Woodpecker	Water Pipit
Cooper's Hawk	Acorn Woodpecker	Loggerhead Shrike
Red-tailed Hawk	Lewis' Woodpecker	Starling
Red-shouldered Hawk	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Hutton's Vireo
Ferruginous Hawk	Hairy Woodpecker	Yellow-rumped Warbler

Angwin CBC (cont)

Townsend's Warbler	Pine Siskin	Dark-eyed Junco
House Sparrow	American Goldfinch	White-crowned Sparrow
Western Meadowlark	Lesser Goldfinch	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Red-winged Blackbird	Rufous-sided Towhee	White-throated Sparrow
Brewer's Blackbird	Brown Towhee	Fox Sparrow
Brown-headed Cowbird	Savannah Sparrow	Lincoln's Sparrow
Purple Finch	Lark Sparrow	Song Sparrow
House Finch	Rufous-crowned Sparrow	

OBSERVATIONS--by Mike Parmeter

Birding continues to excell with the great weather. Several Northern Fulmar were seen from Bodega Head Jan 6 (L. C. Binford, John Parmeter). There was a very unusual sighting of a female Magnificent Frigatebird at Sea Ranch on Dec 31 (Leonard Roth). Details of the sighting will be published in American Birds. A trip down Sonoma Creek Jan 19 yielded only one Green Heron where six were seen three weeks previously (Gerry Mugele). Jan 5, 34 Cattle Egrets were present on High School Rd. just north of Sebastopol. (J.P. Benjamin D. Parmeter) A single Ross' Goose was reported at the Rohnert Park sewer ponds on Jan 11 (Richard Merns). On Jan 1, 11 Wood Ducks were seen in a flock at Lake Hennessey (JP, BDP, Doug Ellis) and on Jan 19, 12 birds were seen on Sonoma Creek (GM). Barrow's Goldeneye Were seen several times this past month; Rich Stallcup saw a female at Bodega Harbor Dec 30, as part of the Western Sonoma County Christmas Count. This bird was not seen subsequently however. A male and female were found on a farm pond off Stoetz Lane near Occidental on the same date and were later viewed by many observers (Phil and Margaret Schaeffer). Another female was found on the Angwin Christmas Count at Lake Hennessey on Jan 1 (JP, DE). There is only one record for Hooded Mergansers; 2 males and 3 females on the pond at Five Brooks Stables Jan 8 (Ruth Hawksley, Hal Corey, Warren Munson, Stan Carpenter). Common Mergansers were noted several times, the best record being 18 birds on Sonoma Creek Jan 19 (GM). A well described immature Broad-winged Hawk was found near the town of Bodega on Jan 30 (Dianne McClung, Keiko Yemane, Gloria Markowitz) Unfortunately it was not seen again, although many persons looked for it. Rough-legged Hawks have been scarce this winter; a single bird at Los Banos Jan 10 (Clarence Tucker), 2 birds near Skaggs Island Jan 20 (GM, Bill Payne, Kathy Mugele) and a single bird near Rio Vista Jan 8 (DE). Ferruginous Hawks were noted several times from widely separated areas. Golden Eagle reports were also numerous; sites of these birds included Sonoma, Lake Berryessa, Novato and Petaluma. A Bald Eagle was reported just north of Petaluma (Ken Peters), and another was reported in the Putah Creek area of Lake Berryessa for the Angwin Xmas Count (Rich Bertoli). There were several sightings of Osprey, a bird formerly thought to be extremely rare in winter, but now sightings are increasingly numerous; location include Lake Hennessey, and Lake Berryessa. A Prairie Falcon was at Tolay Creek Jan 10 (GM). Single Merlins were seen in Petaluma Dec 18 (Betty Burrige) and at St. Helena Jan 1 (BDP, JP, DE).

A Blue Grouse(!) was found in a back yard on Spencer Ave. in Santa Rosa Jan 21 (Jack Arnold). It had been present for several days. Whence it comes, nobody knows! (good grief).

OBSERVATION (continued)

Five Sandhill Cranes were present at the north end of Lake Berryessa on Jan 20, the first record for Napa County (Phil Lenna, JP, BDP). Clapper Rails continue to be heard or seen at the bridge at the north end of Skaggs Island in Sonoma County. Two Red Knots were at Bodega Harbor on Jan 6 (LCB). On the Same date 11 American Avocets were at the Doran Park pond (JP). A Black-necked Stilt was in a flooded field on Ramal Rd Jan 20 (GM, KM, BP). A 1st Year Glaucous Gull was found at Spud Point on Dec 30 (Jack Whetstone) and probably the same bird was seen the on Jan 1 (BB).

A Flock of 60-70 White-throated Swifts was at Monticello Dam on Jan 20 (PL, JP) 5 or 6 Violet-green Swallows, about 50 tree Swallows and at least one Rough-winged Swallow were present at the pond on Ramal Road Jan 20 (GM, KM, BP). A Very early date for the Rough-winged. A Magpie was seen near Petaluma Jan 20 (Helen & Bill Heneks). Unfortunately the bill color was not noted. On the same date Yellow-billed Magpies were seen at the north end of Lake Berryessa (PL, JP). This may be the species most western regular spot in Northern Calif. A Dipper has been seen at Monticello Dam for some time. It was last observed Jan 20 (PL, JP). Two House Wrens were present on the Western Sonoma County Christmas Count, one at the entrance to Blind Beach State Park (Kent Van Vuren, DE) and one near the entrance to the BODEGA Marine Lab Living Quarters (JP). Townsends' Warblers were seen on the Anqwin Christmas Count, this is unusual for that Area (Wayne Tillay). A female or immature American Redstart was found on Joy Road (DMc, KY). A Palm Warbler was at Doran Park on Dec 30 (Dennis Beale). A flock of Evening Grosbeaks was seen in Downtown Petaluma Dec 18 (BB). Dennis Beale found a Swamp Sparrow at Doran Park for the Western Sonoma County Christmas Count.

A bird, thought to possibly be a Tropical Kingbird, was seen in Kennedy Park, Napa on Jan 20 (Roger Hartwell). Unfortunately it could not be found the next day by other observers. A bird which best fits the description of a Sage Thrasher was seen near Petaluma on Dec 2 (H&BH). This bird also could not be found again. Both these sightings must be considered Hypothetical.

Keep those records coming to me.....include what, where, howmany, sex, and details for unusual species.

Mike