

Kite Tales

OCTOBER

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Vol. 15 No. 2 Sonoma County

1980

COMING ATTRACTIONS

October 9, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. RROS General Meeting

Betty Burrige and Deyea Harper (with a little help from their friends) will present a program on their trip to Mexico this spring. This should be a fun and informative evening.

October 12, Sunday, Field Trip to Point Reyes

Meet leader Mike Parmeter at 8 a.m. at the Fish Docks at Point Reyes. Read this month's Observations column for possible sightings and cross your fingers! Also bring a lunch, warm clothes and a friend.

October 19, Sunday, Boat trip to the Cordelle Banks

The boat trip is on! Participants should meet at the Tides in Bodega Bay at 6:30 a.m. on the 19th. There are still spaces available. The cost is only \$20.00 per person. Make the check payable to RROS and mail to Ellen Falconer (1151 Corby Av Santa Rosa, Ca 95401).

ONLY 82 DAYS TIL CHRISTMAS COUNTS!!

Dec. 20--Point Reyes--Jules Evans, compiler

Dec. 21--Santa Rosa--Gerald Mugele, Compiler

Dec. 28--Western Sonoma County--Betty Burrige & Deyea Harper, compilers
TBA

Lake County--Southern Marin County--Arroyo Cheap Thrills--Walnut Creek--
Angwin and lots of others, so plan your Christmas season well!

OLD BUSINESS

Ten RROS members had an absolutely beautiful day for the Bodega field trip. Lots of birds and sunshine made for a wonderful day.

Red-throated Loon	California Quail	American Avocet
Red-Necked Grebe	Virginia Rail	Northern Phalarope
Western Grebe	Sora	Glaucous-winged Gull
Pied-billed Grebe	American Coot	Western Gull
White Pelican	Semipalmated Plover	Ring-billed Gull
Brown Pelican	Killdeer	Ring-billed Gull
Double-crested Cormorant	Black-bellied Plover	Bonaparte's Gull
Pelagic Cormorant	Black Turnstone	Heermann's Gull
Great Blue Heron	Whimbrel	Forster's Tern
Great Egret	Spotted Sandpiper	Mourning Dove
Black-crowned Night Heron	Wandering Tattler	Anna's Hummingbird
Scaup, sp	Willet	Selasphorus Hummingbird
White-winged Scoter	Greater Yellowlegs	Belted Kingfisher
Black Scoter	Least Sandpiper	Common Flicker
Ruddy Duck	Long-billed Dowitcher	Western Flycatcher
Turkey Vulture	Western Sandpiper	Barn Swallow
Osprey	Sanderling	Scrub Jay
American Kestrel	Marbled Godwit	Wrentit

Field Trip (cont)

Winter Wren	Warbling Vireo	House Finch
Bewick's Wren	Common Yellowthroat	American Goldfinch
Long-billed Marsh Wren	American Redstart	Lesser Goldfinch
Mockingbird	House Sparrow	Rufous-sided Towhee
American Robin	Red-winged Blackbird	Brown Towhee
Swainson's Thrush	Brewer's Blackbird	Savannah Sparrow
Starling	Black-headed Grosbeak	White-crowned Sparrow
		Song Sparrow

MORE SNOWY PLOVERSResults of Last Winter's Snowy Plover Survey

Volunteer participants all along the coast of Washington, Oregon, and California collected great information on the distribution and number of Snowy Plovers along the Pacific Coast last winter and spring. Between Mendocino County and the Point Reyes area 382 Snowy Plover were seen in nine locations. This amounted to 14% of the total number of plovers estimated from the survey of the entire California coast. Below is a table giving the locations of beaches on which plovers were found and the highest number of birds seen on the number of surveys indicated.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Highest Number of Plovers Seen</u>	<u>Number of Winter Surveys</u>
MacKerricher Beach	40	3
Manchester Beach	3	5
Salmon Creek Beach	55	7
Bodega Bay Spit	71	13
Dillon Beach	55	2
Point Reyes Beach	51	10
Drake's Estero Beach	36	5
Limantour Spit	127	38
Bolinas Lagoon Spit	35	22

If you find more Snowy Plovers at any of these sites than is reported above, or should you find plovers in any new sites, we would greatly appreciate the details of the sightings.

This summer we banded more adults and chicks at Mono Lake and on Monterey Bay and would like to continue the winter search for banded birds. If you would like to help us locate our banded plovers, help us learn more about the wintering population or find out more about our studies of this secretive inhabitant of California's beaches and alkaline lakes, please write Gary Page at PRBO, 4990 Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach, Ca 94970.

OBSERVATIONS--by Mike Parmeter

Several Sooty Shearwaters were seen offshore from Laguna Point in Mendocino County on Aug 31 (Benjamin D Parmeter, John Parmeter, Kent Van Vuren). Thirteen White Pelicans were at the SE corner of Bodega Harbor on Sept 4 (BDP,JP). This number usually builds up to about 50 birds, some of which remain until

Observations (cont)

the first of the year, although it is a marginal species on the Western Sonoma County Christmas Count. A flock of 40 White-faced Ibis were at Finney Lake, Imperial County on Sept 9 (BDP, Jp, Doug Ellis, Jack Arnold). A single Whistling Swan was in the Lagoon Creek pond at Manchester Beach on Sept 1. This bird has apparently been on the pond for several months. Large numbers of this species winter in the field nearby where Hwy 1 crosses the Garcia River (JP, KVV). Five Wood Ducks in eclipse plumage were noted at the Ukiah Sewer Ponds on Aug 31 (BDP, JP, KVV). Two Greater Scaup summered at Bodega Harbor. They were still present on Sept 20 (DE). A female Bufflehead also spent the summer on the Bodega Bay sewer pond. (DE) Common Mergansers, all in eclipse plumage, were at the mouth of the Garcia River on Aug 31 (24 birds) and at Bridgehaven on Aug 30 (JP, BDP).

Two adult and two immature California Condors were watched in flight and perched at the top of Mt Pinos on Sept 7 (JA, DE, JP, BDP). One adult Golden Eagle was flying over Jack London State Park in Glen Ellen on Sept 27 (Gerry and Kathy Mugele). An immature Peregrine Falcon was at the mouth of the Garcia River on Sept 1 (KVV, BDP, JP), and another was at Doran Park on Sept 20 (DE).

Black Rails were easily heard at the Port Chicago marsh from Aug 25-27 with a high of 8 different birds (DE). An immature Mongolian Plover (Lesser Sand Plover) was found at Elkhorn Slough in Monterey county on Sept 13. Many people saw it the following day. John Parmeter drove to the area on Sept 15 and had excellent views of the bird together with a female Ruff. Two Snowy Plovers were at Manchester Beach on Sept 1 (KVV, JP, BDP). Two American Golden Plovers in winter plumage were at the Garcia River mouth on Aug 31 (KVV, JP, BDP), and another was at Doran Park on Sept 4 (BDP, JP). An early date for a Common Snipe was Aug 30 in Willow Creek Canyon mouth (JP, BDP). Long-billed Curlews have been noted in the Llano Road area by Richard Marriss. There have been many reports for Lesser Yellowlegs this period, including 4 at the Ukiah sewer ponds on Aug 31 (BDP, KVV, JP). Several people have reported Red Knots. Doug Ellis saw 4 birds at Doran Park on Sept 1 for the highest count. A single Stilt Sandpiper was seen at the south end of the Salton Sea on Sept 9 (JP, BDP, DE). Pectoral Sandpipers were seen at several sites, always singly or in twos, no larger flocks. Four Baird's Sandpipers were at the Ukiah sewer ponds on Aug 31 (JP, KVV, BDP). On Sept. 1, three were seen at the mouth of the Garcia River (JP, KVV, BDP). Fifteen American Avocets were at the Doran Park pond on Sept 20 (DE). A single Wilson's Phalarope was at Salmon Creek on Aug 24 (RM) and another or the same bird was there on Aug 28 (DE). Northern Phalarope had a good fall flight, being common along the coast in late August and early September.

On an offshore trip out of Morro Bay, on Sept 13, 4 Long-tailed Jaegers and at least 4 Skuas were seen (BDP, JP). A single Black-legged Kittiwake was at Bodega Harbor on Sept 20 (DE). Six Common Terns were at L Point on Aug 31 (KVV, BDP, JP). On Sept 1 a single Arctic Tern was carefully studied at Manchester Beach (BDP, KVV, JP). Marbled Murrelets were seen off the mouth of the Russian River on Aug 30 and off Gualala on Sept 1 (BDP, JP).

A Black-billed Cuckoo was found at the New Willows at Pt Reyes on Sept 8 (John Luther). The bird remained a full week and was seen by most of the serious birders in California. Spotted Owls were noted in Willow Creek Canyon on Aug 30 (BDP, JP). Several Pygmy Owls were noted there on the same date. Gerry Mugele

Observations (cont)

called down a Pygmy Owl in the woods of Jack London Park on Sept 27. Pileated Woodpeckers were common at Calaveras Big Trees on Sept 11 (RM). A single Lewis' Woodpecker was at Todd and Llanó Roads on Sept 14 (RM). Another single Lewis' flew over Hawk Mountain on Sept 20 (JP). A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was at Calaveras Big Trees on Sept 11 (RM). Single Eastern Kingbirds were noted at Santa Barbara on Sept 12 (BDP, JP, DE, JA), and another was near the town of Tomales on Sept 14 (Same). Willow Flycatchers were common in coastal locations this period; the species regularly along the Sonoma County coast. Male and female Vermillion Flycatchers were at Morongo Valley on Sept 8 (DE, JA, JP, BDP).

A spectacular warbler fallout occurred at Pt Reyes the second week of September. (I was in Southern California at the time. Sob!) A Prothonotary Warbler was seen at Fort Cronkite on Sept 18 (DE) and was still present on Sept 20 (JP). A Lucy Warbler was at Gonota State Park in Santa Barbara County on Sept 12 (JA, JP, BDP, DE). This bird had been present for several days prior to that date. A Pine Warbler was seen at the Wendover Ranch in the Tijuana River Valley at San Diego on Sept 11 (BDP, JA, JP, DE). This species is notoriously hard to identify, but the necessary field marks were well seen. A Townsend's Warbler was sighted in Jack London Park on Sept 27 (G&KM). A Chestnut-sided Warbler was at Fort Cronkite on Sept 20 (JP). A Mourning vs Connecticut Warbler was at the "Johnson Gulch" willows at Bodega Harbor on Sept 9. It was felt most likely to have been a Mourning (Dave Schuford, Jules Evans). There were several reports of American Redstarts, including one young male in the canyon on the west side of Bodega Harbor (we need a name for this place, too, ed.) on Sept 4 (JP, BDP).

Single Hooded Orioles were seen near San Diego on Sept 10 and 11 (BDP, JP, DE JA). A single male Indigo Bunting was at Morongo Valley on Sept 8 (Ja, BDP). A flock of 20 Evening Grosbeaks in breeding plumage was at Russian Gulch State Park on Aug 31 (BDP, KVV, JP). This is an unusual location for the date. A Green-tailed Towhee was found at the reactor site at Bodega Harbor on Sept 9 (DS, JE). Rufous-crowned Sparrows were noted twice in Willow Creek Canyon. Hopefully, they will stay for the Christmas Count. The first report of Fox Sparrows was one bird at Bodega Bay on Sept 14 (DE).

Please send all interesting sightings to Mike Parmeter (2500 Emerson st, Napa, 94558) or call 707-255-6757 by October 20.

DUES

Dues are due and overdue. Please send them to Ellen Falconer 1151 Corby av Santa Rosa, Ca 95401. (Family--\$6.00, Individual--\$4.50, Student--\$2.00)