

Kite Tales

DECEMBER

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Vol. 15 No. 4 Sonoma County

1980

COMING ATTRACTIONS

December 11, Thursday, 7:30 pm RROS General Meeting

Dr Arnold will present a bird identification program (and a test). This program will be good practice for the upcoming Christmas Bird Counts. (Bring a pencil!)

December 21, Sunday, Santa Rosa Christmas Bird Count

We have all our territories covered, but could still use some help. (Maybe some of our new members would like to volunteer--no experience necessary!) We have our weather scheduled (sunny w/some high overcast) to make the day more pleasant for all concerned.

Mike & Adeene Nelligan have generously donated the use of their (magnificent) home for the compilation and count supper. As usual, it's a bring-a-goodie-to-share affair (commonly called potluck supper). Suggestions would be--soup, chili, french bread, cheese & crackers, cookies, etc...remember, we're feeding cold, starved people! Bring your own eating utensils--let's make it easy on Adeene.

The address is 5425 Alta Monte Dr, Santa Rosa...584-5191. Arrive around dark (5-5:30 pm). Official countdown will start around 6:30-7:00. Plan to be there! Anyone who would like to volunteer for CBC duty can contact Gerry Mugele at 938-2134.

CBCs

Here's a list to fill your Christmas season.

Point Reyes	Dec 20	Jules Evans
Santa Rosa (US!)	Dec 21	Gerry Mugele 938-2134
Golden Gate	Dec 21	Doug Gomke
Mt Diablo	Dec 27	Jimm Edgar 415-283-3510
Western Sonoma Cty	Dec 28	Betty Burr ridge 527-0225
		Deyea Harper 542-1542
Angwin	Jan 1	Wayne Tillay
So. Marin Cty	Jan 3	
Lake County	Jan 4	Jim Matzinger 928-5376
		Mary Manning 263-4433
Arroyo Cheap Thrills	Jan 4	Dave Shuford

PHONE CHAIN

Betty and Deyea are organizing a phone chain to keep everyone informed of unusual birds (like the King Eider at Abbot's Lagoon). Watch future Kite Tales for more information.

OLD BUSINESS

BYOS Night

As usual, we had an impressive bunch of slides. There were photos of unusual rare birds and people, and photos of common everyday birds. The artistic quality of some of the slides is especially exciting! They're not just pictures

of birds, they're works of art...Dan Nelson's Wood Duck, Rich Stallcup's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Gerry Mugele's Common Egret, Rick Lebaudour's Sandhill Cranes...and on and on. Thanks to everyone for a great program!

Birdathon

RROS sponsored Mike Parmeter in the latest PRBO Birdathon. Mike found 140 species at 10¢ a species. Congratulations!

A NEW BOOK

Birds of Southern California: Status and Distribution by Kimball Garrett & Jon Dunn. Included are species accounts of 500+ birds; seasonal bar graphs; info on biogeography, taxonomy, population trends, bird movements; maps of breeding ranges. Check payable to LAAS (Los Angeles Audubon Society) mail to "Southern California Birds", LAAS, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, Ca 90046--\$14.35 plus \$1 postage/handling plus 86¢ tax. (This is a pre-publication discount of 10% til Jan. 1).

FIELD TRIP RESULTS---Willow Creek Road---November 15---Doug Ellis, Leader

Western Grebe	Ring-billed Gull	Hermit Thrush
Pied-billed Grebe	Band-tailed Pigeon	Western Bluebird
Double-crested Cormorant	Great Horned Owl (16)	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Brandt's Cormorant	Pygmy Owl (10)	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Pelagic Cormorant	Spotted Owl (3)	Water Pipit
Great Blue Heron	Long-eared Owl (1)	Starling
Canada Goose (1)	Saw-whet Owl (2)	Hutton's Vireo
Ring-necked Duck (1)	Anna's Hummingbird	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Greater Scaup	Belted Kingfisher	Western Meadowlark
Lesser Scaup	Common Flicker	Brewer's Blackbird
Bufflehead	Pileated Woodpecker (1)	Purple Finch
White-winged Scoter	Black Phoebe	House Finch
Surf Scoter	Steller's Jay	Pine Siskin
Ruddy Duck	Scrub Jay	American Goldfinch
Turkey Vulture	Common Raven	Rufous-sided Towhee
Sharp-shinned Hawk (1)	Chesnut-backed Chickadee	Brown Towhee
Cooper's Hawk (1)	Bushtit	Rufous-crowned Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Dark-eyed Junco
American Kestrel	Pygmy Nuthatch	White-crowned Sparrow
California Quail	Brown Creeper	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Virginia Rail	Wrentit	Fox Sparrow
American Coot	Winter Wren	Song Sparrow
Killdeer	Bewick's Wren	
Spotted Sandpiper	American Robin	
Common Snipe	Varied Thrush	

OBSERVATIONS--by Mike Parmeter

One adult and two immature Green Herons were present a Five Brooks Stable Pond on Nov 15 (John Parmeter, BD Parmeter). Flocks of Whistling Swans were noted twice, 12 birds at the Llano Rd sewer ponds on 11-16 (Richard Merriss) and a flock of 16 birds at Abbott's Lagoon on 11-16 (BDP, Phil Lenna, Doug Ellis). A single Canada Goose was seen at Bridge haven on 11-15 (RROS). Three Snow Geese (2 imm, 1 ad) were at Rohnert Park sewer ponds from 10-24 thru 10-30 (Rick Lebaudur). A male European Wigeon was on the fresh water pond at Abbott's Lagoon on 11-16 (BDP, PL,DE). It required careful searching of the large flock of Am Wigeon to find it. Six Wood Ducks were on the Llano Rd sewer ponds 11-11 (RL) and 11 Redheads were

Observations--cont

there from 10-24 thru 10-30 (RL). (No Blondes?) The male Tufted Duck has returned to the Limantour fresh water pond, hopefully to again spend the entire winter. It was seen 11-8 (Dan Nelson) and 11-16 (DE,PL,BDP). A female Harlequin Duck was at Fort Ross 10-25 (Joel Hornstein.) David Shuford discovered a female King Eider at Abbott's Lagoon on 11-13 which has remained at least thru 11-22. On 11-15, 1 male and 2 female Hooded Mergansers were at the 5 Brooks stable pond (JP,BDP). This is the first winter record that I'm aware of in our area.

Ferruginous Hawks have returned. On 10-24 an adult bird was seen on Chileno Valley Rd (Deyea Harper) and again on 11-5 (DH). An immature Ferruginous was seen near the Cheese Factory on 11-15 (DH), and on 11-16 an adult was seen there (PL,DE,BDP). Rough-legged Hawks have also been seen. A light-phase bird was near Santa Rosa on 11-15 (RM), and single light-phase birds were seen at the Hall Ranch and at Limantour on 11-16 (PL,DE,BDP). Peregrine Falcons were sighted twice, both times at Bolinas Lagoon 11-8 (DN) and 11-15 (BDP,JP). A female Merlin was found at the junction of Llano and Ludwig Rds on 11-11 (RL). A common Gallinule, always a scarce bird in our area, was at the Rohnert Park sewer ponds on 10-26 (RL). An unusually large flock of Snowy Plovers (100-150) was at Doran Park 11-8 (RL). An unusually large flock of Golden Plovers was at Bodega Bay on 10-24 (John Sterling). Ten Pygmy Owls were counted in Willow Creek Canyon on 11-15, along with 3 Spotted Owls, 2 Saw-whet Owls and 1 Long-eared Owl (RROS,DE). The male Costa's Hummingbird is still returning to the feeder at Clarence Wolcott's home 7-1 thru 11-13 (CW). A single Pileated Woodpecker was noted in Willow Creek Canyon on 11-15 (RROS). The Skylark was found at the Hall Ranch on 10-25 (BDP,JP,JS,DE,PL) and has been seen by many observers. This is the third year it has been seen here (from whence it comes, noone knows). Pygmy Nuthatches were seen in Willow Creek Canyon on 11-15 (RROS).

A Short-billed Marsh Wren was found at Pine Gulch Creek at Bolinas Lagoon on 11-4 (David DeSante). This is the first California record! It was seen by only a handful of lucky observers, despite intensive searching and marked injury to the habitat. Dan Nelson was among the lucky ones seeing it on 11-18. A Blue-Gray Gnat-Catcher was seen near Winters on 11-9 (JS), and a Phainopepla was at Lake Solano on the same date (JS). An immature Northern Shrike spent some time on the few Cypressess on Limantour Spit and was seen by Dan Nelson on 11-8.

Two Orange-crowned Warblers were at Diekmann's Store on 11-12 (Rich Stallcup) and a single bird on 11-15 (JP,BDP). On the same date, Rich also found a Nashville Warbler. The big news from Diekmann's was a juvenile female Prairie Warbler found on 11-12 (RS). This is a new species for the Sonoma County list--#363! (Thank you Rich!) A Magnolia Warbler was at the New Willows on 10-25 (JP,BDP,PL,DE,JS). Two Palm Warblers were sighted at Fort Ross on 10-25 (JH) and one was at Pine Gulch Creek on 11-15 (JP,BDP). A Black-throated Green Warbler was seen by many observers at the Nunes Ranch on 10-25 (Jon Winter). A Baltimore-type Northern Oriole was found at the Rail Ponds (Bodega) on 11-9 by Joe Morlan.

A Rufous-crowned Sparrow was found in lower Willow Creek Canyon on 11-15 (RROS). This This species has been seen or heard regularly at this site for several weeks. Let's hope it remains for the CBC! The Sharp-tailed Sparrows are back at Bolinas Lagoon. Rich Stallcup showed some nice slides of these birds at our last meeting. Joel Hornstein saw them there on 11-9. Two Swamp Sparrows responded to "pishing" at Olema Marsh on 11-16 (PL,DE,BDP). Lapland Longspurs have been present at the Hall Ranch throughout this period. Chesnut-collared Longspurs were noted occasionally with a high count of five birds on 10-27 (BDP,PL).

Call or write Mike with sightings--2500 Emerson St, Napa 255-6757

Addendum: Add to the RROS life list (published in the Kite Tales Oct 1979)
Green-tailed Towhee 10-24-76 on an RROS trip to Point Reyes--seen
by Terry Babineaux, Merle Archy, Ruth Hawksley, Betty Burridge