

Kite Tales

FEBRUARY

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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1981

COMING ATTRACTIONS

February 7, Saturday, 8:30 am, RROS Field Trip to Thornton

Meet at 8:30 am at the east end of the Highway 12 bridge over the Sacramento River in Rio Vista. (Carpools can meet at 7:00 am at the Black Forest Restaurant in Santa Rosa.) Leader Doug Ellis has spent over 1½ years working (birding) in the Delta area. Bring lunch and warm clothes and etc...

February 12, Thursday, 7:30 pm, RROS General Meeting

Glaciers, geysirs, volcanoes, waterfalls, midnight sun...birds...This month's program is a photo tour of Iceland by Gerry and Kathy Mugele. Join us for a circumnavigation of the Land of Fire and Ice.

March ?, RROS Field Trip to Honey Lake

This is a fun expedition. We should see Sage Grouse, Eagles, Sandhill Cranes and lots of ducks and geese. We'll discuss particulars at the February meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Santa Rosa CBC

The number of Red-shouldered Hawks on your list should be 32.

CBC Totals

Clear Lake---133
Angwin---130
Point Reyes---193
Western Sonoma Co---184
Monterey---187
So. Marin Co---178
Napa---141 (new count-6 participants)
Santa Rosa---132

Freezer Birds

When you place a dead bird in your freezer to save it for a specimen, make sure that you tag it with as much information as possible--date that it was found, exact location, name & address & phone of the person who found it. This information will give your find more meaning. (Dr Arnold is always interested in such findings. 199 Calistoga Rd Santa Rosa or Sonoma State College).

READING MATERIAL

The brand new Birder's Guide to Florida by James Lane, is now available from L&P Press, PO Box 21604, Denver, Colo 80221; cost \$7.00. Other guides: South-east Arizona (1977), Eastern Colorado (1979), North Dakota (1979), Texas Coast (1980)-\$5.00 each; Rio Grande Valley of Texas (1978), Southern California (1979) \$4.50 each. (Add 60¢ postage (1-2 books), 22¢ each additional book.) These guides are amazingly helpful when birding in unfamiliar areas (and summer is coming!)

Birds of Southern California: Status and Distribution by Kimball Garrett and Jon

Dunn. Included are species accounts of 500+ birds; seasonal bar graphs; info on biogeography, taxonomy, population trends, bird movements; maps of breeding ranges; line drawings by Lee Jones. The cost is \$19.95 including postage and handling; Cal residents add \$1.14 sales tax. Make checks payable to LAAS (Los Angeles Audubon Society) and send to "Southern Calif Birds" c/o Audubon House, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd, Los Angeles, Ca 90046.

Birds of Sonoma County by Mike Parmeter and Gordy Bolander is still available. (New members take note.) Send a check for \$4.74 (\$4.00 + .24 tax + .50 handling) to Dr John Arnold, 199 Calistoga Rd, Santa Rosa, Ca 95404.

FIELD TRIP RESULTS

January 10 was foggy and windy-not ideal birding conditions, but all birders had an excellent day with spectacular looks at a Peregrine that posed both before and after lunch.

Common Loon	Red-tailed Hawk	Scrub Jay
Red-throated Loon	Red-shouldered Hawk	Common Raven
Red-necked Grebe	Marsh Hawk	Common Crow
Horned Grebe	Peregrine Falcon	Chestnut-backed Chickadee
Eared Grebe	American Kestrel	Plain Titmouse
Western Grebe	California Quail	Bushtit
Pied-billed Grebe	Virginia Rail	White-breasted Nuthatch
Brandt's Cormorant	American Coot	House Wren
Pelagic Cormorant	Killdeer	Winter Wren
Great Blue Heron	Black-bellied Plover	Bewick's Wren
Snowy Egret	Black Turnstone	Mockingbird
Black-crowned Night Heron	Common Spire	American Robin
Whistling Swan	Willet	Varied Thrush
White-fronted Goose	Dunlin	Hermit Thrush
Snow Goose	Short-billed Dowitcher	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Mallard	Long-billed Dowitcher	Water Pipit
Pintail	Western Sandpiper	Loggerhead Shrike
Green-winged Teal	Marbled Godwit	Starling
American Wigeon	Glaucous-winged Gull	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Northern Shoveler	Western Gull	House Sparrow
Canvasback	Herring Gull	Western Meadowlark
Greater Scaup	California Gull	Red-winged Blackbird
Lesser Scaup	* Ring-billed Gull	Brewer's Blackbird
Common Goldeneye	Rock Dove	Purple Finch
Bufflehead	Mourning Dove	House Finch
White-winged Scoter	Pygmy Owl	Pine Siskin
Surf Scoter	Burrowing Owl	Rufous-sided Towhee
Black Scoter	Common Flicker	Brown Towhee
Ruddy Duck	Acorn Woodpecker	Savannah Sparrow
Common Merganser	Hairy Woodpecker	Dark-eyed Junco
Turkey Vulture	Nuttall's Woodpecker	White-crowned Sparrow
White-tailed Kite	Black Phoebe	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Say's Phoebe	Fox Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk	Steller's Jay	Song Sparrow
	*Common Murre	

OBSERVATIONS---by Mike Parmeter

Four Fulmars were seen from Bodega Head on 12-28 (IC Binford, BD Parmeter). A single adult Brown Pelican was present at Bodega Harbor 1-18 (LCB, John Parmeter),

Observations-cont

a late, lingering bird. American were unusually numerous this winter. A single bird was noted at Clear Lake State Park on 11-20 (Ollie Kolkmann, Jim Matzinger). A White-faced Ibis was at Anderson Marsh on 1-2 (JM)! The number of swans and geese in coastal locations has been the greatest of any winter in my memory. I shall try to summarize the sightings submitted. Whistling Swans were noted as follows: 6 at Bodega Harbor 12-28 (LCB,JP,BDP), 18 at Salmon Creek on 1-21 (Doug Ellis), 11 at Lake Hennessey on 1-1 (JP,BDP), 3 at Anderson Marsh on 1-2 (JM), 5 at Bodega Harbor on 1-18 (LCB,JP,BDP). There were also many sightings for Canada Geese: 15 birds at Napa on 12-23 (JP), 17 birds at Napa on 12-23 (BDP), 2 medium sized at Bridgehaven (LCB,JP,BDP), 170 birds at Lake Hennessey on 1-1 (JP,BDP), 8 birds (7 honkers, 1 minima) at the Petaluma Sewer Ponds on 1-4 (Jules Evens, Phil Henderson, Mork Zumsteg), 30 birds at Bel Marin Keyes on 1-4 (DE), 15 birds at Port Sonoma on 1-4 (DE), 2 birds (both honkers) on Lakeville Rd on 1-4 (LCB, Dan Nelson, BDP), 1 bird at Doran Park on 1-13 (Ruth Hawksley, Hal Corey, Stan Carpenter, Les Hood), 1 medium-sized bird at Doran Park on 1-18 (LCB,JP,BDP). White-fronted Geese were reported as follows: 1 bird at the Napa Sewer Ponds on 12-23 (Phil Lenna, BDP), 8 birds at Bel Marin Keyes on 12-31 (DE), 6 birds (2 adults 4 immatures) at the Petaluma Sewer Ponds on 1-4 (JE,PH,MZ), 5 birds at Anderson Marsh on 1-4 (OK), 7 birds at Bodega Harbor on 1-10 (RROS), 8 birds at Doran Park on 1-13 (RH,HC,SC,LH), 22 birds at Doran Park on 1-18 (LCB,JP,BDP). Snow Goose records: 6 birds at Bel Marin Keyes on 1-4 (DE), 1 adult, 1 immature at the Petaluma Sewer Ponds on 1-4 (JE,PH,MZ), 6 birds at Bodega Harbor on 1-10 (RROS), 2 immatures at Doran Park on 1-13 (RH,HC,SC,LH), 1 immature at Doran Park on 1-18 (LCB,JP,BDP), 1 immature at Bodega Bay on 1-21 (DE), 1 immature at Bridgehaven on 1-21 (DE). Ross Geese are always rare in Sonoma County, records for this period are: 1 adult at the Petaluma Sewer Ponds on 1-4 (JE,PH,MZ), 2 birds at Doran Park on 1-13 (RH,HC,SC,LH), 2 adults at Doran Park on 1-18 (LCB, JP,BDP), 1 bird at Bodega Bay on 1-21 (DE).

Blue-winged Teal, 4 males and 2 females, were at the Castroville Sewer Ponds on 12-31 (BDP,JP,LCB). European Wigeon were seen as follows: 1 adult male in Pope Valley on 11-26 (JM), 1 adult male in Richardson Bay on 1-3 (JP,BDP), 1 adult male at the Petaluma Sewer Ponds on 1-4 (JE,PH,MZ), 1 adult male on Clearlake Highlands Sewer Ponds on 1-4 (John Robeson). Seven Redheads at Spring Lake on 1-12 is a good number (DE) and a single female was seen at Salmon Creek on 1-18 (LCB,JP,BDP). A male Tufted Duck was found on the north shore of Richardson Bay near the sewer plant on 1-3 (JP,BDP). On Jan 2 a male Barrow's Golden-eye was on a pond on Stoetz Lane (RH,HC,SC) and was seen again on 1-10 (DE, Rick Lebadour). Three male Oldsquaws were at Moss Landing on 12-31 (JP,BDP, LCB), and a single male was seen on Richardson Bay on 1-3 (BDP,JP). A male Harlequin Duck in beautiful breeding plumage was next to Hwy 1 at Moss Landing on 12-31 (JP,LCB,BDP). Two male and 5 female Hooded Mergansers were at 5 Brooks Pond (RH,HC,SC) on 1-6. Twenty-five Common Mergansers were at Malchow Pool on 12-28 (LCB,JP,BDP).

Rough-legged Hawks began to show up after having been scarce in the fall and early winter. One was at Sears Point on 12-23 (RL) and another (possibly the same) was seen in the same area on 12-26 (DE). Single birds were noted at Bodega Head and Estero Lane on 1-18 (BDP,JP,LCB). Ferruginous Hawks were seen as follows: Pope Valley Airport on 11-26 (JM), near Napa 11-26 (JM), along Hwy 29 at Watson on 12-20 (JM) and at the Napa Airport on 1-18 (JP). There were many reports of Golden Eagles from inland and coastal areas. An immature Bald Eagle possibly a third year bird, has been near the mouth of Austin Creek for about a month. Several observers have reported it. Single Osprey were noted at Lake Hennessey on 1-1 (JP) and at Solano Lake on 9-9 (RH,HC,SC). Prairie Falcon

Observations-cont

sightings were numerous with Jim Matzinger noting several in Lake County and No. Napa County. An adult female Peregrine Falcon has been at Bodega Bay for a couple of weeks and was reported by several observers. JM also noted several Merlins in Lake Co. He also submitted the single Sonoma Co. record, a single bird near Glen Ellen on 11-27.

Common Gallinules have been scarce in our area for several winters. A single bird was at Clearlake St. Park on 11-20 (OK,JM), and 2 adults were at the Petaluma Sewer Ponds on 1-4 (JE,PH,MZ). The bird which is regular at Kennedy Park in Napa is again present (JP). A flock of at least 51 Ruddy Turnstones was on the east side of Bodega Harbor on 1-18 (JP,BDP). A single Lesser Yellowlegs was reported, on Binford Rd in Novato on 1-4 (DE). Four Rock Sandpipers were at Bodega Head on 1-18 (LCB,JP,BDP). Numerous Red Phalarope were offshore at Bodega Head on 1-18 (LCB,JP,BDP).

A well-observed adult Glaucous Gull was seen in a mixed flock of gulls at Salmon Creek on 1-21 (DE). This is a most unusual sighting. Attempts should be made for others to see and, if possible, photograph this bird. One adult and 4 Immature Heermann's Gulls were seen at Bodega Head on 12-28 (LCB,BDP). Single Black-legged Kittiwakes were noted at Bodega Head on 12-28 and 1-18 (LCB,JP,BDP). Both Marbled and Ancient Murrelets were noted from Bodega Head on 12-28. On 1-18 only Marbled Murrelets could be found.

A Roadrunner was near Detert Reservoir on 11-26 (JM). This is Jim's 200th Lake County Bird! A Burrowing Owl was at the Clearlake Highlands Sewer Ponds on 1-2 (JM) and again on 1-4 (JM,Mary Manning). A Short-eared Owl was at the Petaluma Sewer Ponds on 1-4 (JE,PH,MZ). A Saw-whet Owl was heard at the Matzinger property in Cobb Valley on 1-3 by several persons and was heard again on 1-4 and 1-6 (JM, mob). Lewis Woodpeckers were reported from Butts Canyon Rd, High Valley (Lake Co) and near Napa. An Olivaceous Flycatcher was seen in Santa Cruz on 12-29 (LCB,JP, BDP) and an Eastern Phoebe was in Monterey on the same date (LCB,JP,BDP). On 12-30 a second Eastern Phoebe was found in Pacific Grove (LCB). A House Wren was seen near Clearlake Oaks on 1-4 (JM,MM), and one was at the Russian River near Austin Creek on 12-28 (Gerry Mugele, RL).

Black-and-white Warblers were seen at Russian Gulch, Sonoma Co., on 12-27 (DE) and 12-30 in Pacific Grove (Rich Stallcup,LCB,JP,BDP). A Lucy Warbler was found in Pacific Grove on 12-30 by LCBinford and was seen by many others. Single Palm Warblers were at the Petaluma Sewer Ponds on 1-4 (JE,PH,MZ) and at the Monterey Presidio on 12-30 (BDP). On the Monterey CBC, in our (LCB,JP,BDP) territory, were a total of 11 species of warblers: Black-and-white (1), Tennessee (2), Orange-crowned (3), Nashville (3), Lucy's (1), Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Gray (1), Townsend's, Hermit, Palm (1) and Common Yellowthroat. A Northern Oriole (hybrid) was in Pacific Grove on 12-30 (LCB,JP,BDP). A Western Tanager was heard calling, but not seen on 12-30 in the Monterey Presidio (BDP). Doug Ellis reports 9 Evening Grosbeaks near Angwin on 1-1. The Parmeters saw a male and a female Red Crossbill together on Ink Grade, Howell Mt on 1-1. Rufous-crowned Sparrows are numerous this winter. Seventeen birds were counted around Lake Hennessey on 1-1 (JP,BDP).

Many thanks to Gerry Mugele for conducting the Santa Rosa CBC and to Deyea and Betty for all their work on the Western Sonoma Co CBC. A good time was had by all!

Remember to send or phone your observations to Mike Parmeter, 2500 Emerson, Napa 94558---255-6757