

# Kite Tales

FEBRUARY

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
Vol. 16, No. 6

1982

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

### February 11, Thursday, 7:30 pm, RROS General Meeting

"In Search of Condors"---Doug Ellis and Terry Colborn will show slides of their experiences while looking for Condors in the southern California mountains.

### February 13, Saturday, 8 am, Field Trip to Central Valley

Meet at the east end of the bridge that crosses the Sacramento River on Highway 12 just outside of Rio Vista. We should get good looks at swans, geese, ducks, short-eared owls, cranes. We need a volunteer to lead.

## FIELD TRIP RESULTS

The turnout was small (Doug Ellis, Richard Merriss, Nat Merriss, and Rick Lebaudour), so the format was relaxed. Birding ranged over Foster City Lagoon, Palo Alto Yacht Harbor and Golden Gate Park with good results.

Red-throated Loon, Horned Grebe, Western Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, American Bittern, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, European Widgeon, American Widgeon, Northern Shoveler, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Common Merganser, SMEW, Turkey Vulture, White-tailed Kite, Red-tailed Hawk, Marsh Hawk, American Kestrel, California Quail, Clapper Rail, Virginia Rail, Coot, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Long-billed Curlew, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitcher, Long-billed Dowitcher, Western Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, Glaucous-winged Gull, Western Gull, Herring Gull, Thayer's Gull, California Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Mew Gull, Forster's Tern, Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Black Phoebe, Common Raven, Common Crow, Chesnut-backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, American Robin, Western Bluebird, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Tricolored Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Savannah Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

## DUES

I have a list of 28 who are not current with their dues payment. Please mail your check to Ellen Falconer 1151 Corby Av Santa Rosa, Ca 95401. (\$6.00 for family, \$4.50 for individuals, \$2.00 for students)

## OBSERVATIONS--Dan Nelson (762-6152)

One Horned Grebe was found at the Lakeville Sewer Ponds on 1-3 (RL,DE,BB), and another was seen at Sacramento NWR on 1-23 (DE,TC,DL,HC). This species is uncommon away from the immediate coast. An American Bittern haunted the Lakeville Sewer Ponds on 1-3 (DE,RL,BB). 125 Canada Geese were at the pond

OBSERVATIONS--cont

along CannonRd, along with 5 White-fronted Geese (BDP,JP). Two White-fronts were also noted near Petaluma on 1-2 (RL,DE), and 37 were at Skaggs Is on 1-17 (JP,BDP). A blue-phased Snow Goose was seen at Gray Lodge NWR on 1-9, where as many as 5 Eurasian Widgeon have been seen (both JH). The male Tufted Duck remains at Lake Hennessy, along with 5 Hooded Mergansers on 1-9 (BDP,JP). 5 Hooded Mergansers were still at Five Brooks on 1-31 (WN,CN). The male Smew is still being seen at Foster City, and it continues to moult into full adult plumage. It was still there on 1-16 (DE,RL,RM). Two imm. Golden Eagles were along Lakeville Hwy on 1-3 (RL,BB,DE). An adult Bald Eagle was at the north end of Lake Berryessa on 1-9, and 2 Osprey were at Lake Hennessy the same day (both JP,BDP). California's biggest news for January was undoubtedly the Gyrfalcon found near Davis, and it was seen by almost all of the states' leading birders on 1-23 (BDP,JP,LCB,GM,KM,DN et al). 2 Prairie Falcons were seen atop Cannon Rd on 1-2. This seems to be a regular place for this species during winter (BDP,JP). Another Prairie Falcon was seen along with a Merlin near the intersection of Lakeville Hwy and Hwy 37, also on 1-2 (JP,BDP). 4 Mountain Quail were noted along Chiles Rd, Napa County on 1-9 (JP,BDP). As many as 4 Glaucous Gulls have been seen in a garbage dump near Davis, but only 2 (1 ad, 1 imm) could be found there on 1-23 (BDP,JP,LCB,GM,KM,DN,JL). Lewis' Woodpeckers were reportedly common throughout the northern region at Lake Berryessa on 1-9 (JP,BDP). Bohemian Waxwings have invaded the northern region of the state, especially in the Yreka area. Careful searching through waxwing flocks in our area could possibly yield a few of this sporadic northern rarity. 4 Rufous-crowned Sparrows and 2 Swamp Sparrows were found along Willow Creek Rd for the Western Sonoma Christmas Count on 12-27 (DE). An adult Harris' Sparrow was found off Hwy 20 in Lake County on 1-2 (JH,BD). A White-throated Sparrow was in Santa Rosa on 1-1 (DE). An adult White-throated Sparrow was seen throughout late December in Kenwood and was still there as of 1-16 (TC).

Contributers: Dr LC Binford, Betty Burrige, Terry Colborn, Hal Corey, Bruce Duel, Doug Ellis, Joel Hornstein, Jeri Langham, Rick Lebaudour, Richard Merriss, Gerry Mugele, Kathy Mugele, Clyde & Wini Nelson, Dan Nelson, Benjamin D Parmeter, and John Parmeter.

Organized in 1962, the purpose of the club is to encourage the study and conservation of birds, other wildlife and their habitat. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, September thru May, at 7:30 pm in Room 221 of Darwin Hall, Sonoma State College, Rohnert Park.

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Officers

- President Doug Ellis PO Box 155 Eldridge, Ca 95431 833-4344
- Vice-president Hal Corey 422 Ridgeway Santa Rosa, Ca 95401 542-8429
- Secretary Ruth Hawksley 49 Howarth Ct 95405 539-2616
- Treasurer Ellen Falconer 1151 Corby Av Santa Rosa, Ca 95401 542-3361
- Field Trips Rick Lebaudour 349 10th St Santa Rosa, ca 95401 525-9158
- Observations Dan Nelson 400 Sunnyslope Petaluma, Ca 94952 762-6152
- Social Chairperson Louise Johnston 475 Vine Av Sebastopol, Ca 95472 823-2245
- Kite Tales Kathy Mugele PO Box 790 Sonoma, Ca 95476 938-2134
- Christmas Count Gerry Mugele PO Box 790 Sonoma, Ca 95476 938-2134