

# Kite Tales

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MARCH

RDEWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
Vol. 16, No. 7                      Sonoma County

1982

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

### March 11, Thursday, RROS General Meeting

"The Prairie Falcon in the Mojave Desert" presented by Sandi Boyce, who has worked as field biologist with the US government in Alaska and California.

### March 19,20,21--Field Trip to Honey Lake

The 7 Acres Motel in Litchfield has been reserved for RROS on this weekend, but you must make arrangements with Rick Lebadour (525-9158) if you are planning to attend. There will be discussion of details at the meeting or give Rick a call. Alternate accomodations could be arranged in Susanville or there are camping facilities (for the brave and hardy) at Honey Lake. The purpose of the trip is the Sage Grouse lek plus falcons, eagles, Sandhill Cranes, Longspurs and Northern Shrikes. Richard Merriss will be the leader.

### Marin County Breeding Bird Project

From 1976-78, PRBO conducted a Breeding Bird Atlas project. The idea was to divide Marin County into 220 blocks and to have volunteers scour the countryside in the breeding season to determine all the species that breed in each block, and thus pinpoint the breeding distribution of each species. We are gearing up for the 1982 breeding season for one final push to cover the 10% of the blocks that have not been covered as well as fill in the gaps in a few other blocks. Volunteers are needed to spend a few days this spring looking for breeding evidence in these remaining blocks. This can be lots of fun as this is not a census, so you do not have to count individual birds, you just have to look for breeding evidence for each species. The project will culminate in the publication of the study which will include breeding distribution maps of all the species that breed in Marin.

If you are interested in participating in this cooperative scientific and conversation effort please drop a postcard to Dave Shuford c/o PRBO 4990 State Route 1, Stinson Beach, Ca 94970 or call him at PRBO (415) 868-1221 or at home (415) 669-7429 for more details.

### February Field Trip Results

Richard Merriss led the group to Thornton & Andrus Island in the Delta. The following birds were of special note (from a total of 60 species): American Bittern, White-fronted Goose (20-low), Merlin, Sandhill Cranes (50-low), Short-eared Owl, Burrowing Owl, three species of Swallow-Violet-green, Tree, and Cliff. (2-13)

### Dues

Please mail your dues payment to Ellen Falconer 1151 Corby Av Sant Rosa Ca 95401. (\$6.00 for family, \$4.50 for individuals, \$2.00 for students). If there is an asterisk on your address label, you will be dropped from the mailing next month.

OBSERVATIONS--Dan Nelson (762-6152)

A Yellow-billed Loon was found at Ft Point in San Francisco, just below the Golden Gate Bridge in early February, and was seen by many people. A single Red-necked Grebe was near the jetty at Bodega Harbor on 2-18 (DE). 2 Green Herons were along Santa Rosa Creek off Willowside Rd on 2-20 (DE,TC). 7 Cattle Egrets were along High School Rd, Sebastopol, on 2-20 (DE,TC). An American Bittern haunted the Petaluma Sewer Ponds on 2-14 (KVV,KC). 2 Blue-winged Teal were at these ponds on 2-20, with 1 near there on 2-27. A single Ring-necked Duck was on a pond near Kenwood on 2-14 (DE). 4 female Barrows Goldeneye were at the Petaluma Sewer Ponds on 2-14, and one Hooded Merganser was there on 2-27 (both KVV, KC). 15-20 Common Mergansers were on Santa Rosa Creek off Willowside Rd on 2-29 (DE,TC). Early Osprey reports are from Spring Lake on 2-16 (RL), Bodega Bay on 2-18 (DN,WN,SG) and Monte Rio on 2-20 (DN,WN, SG). 1 Ferruginous Hawk along Arnold Drive/Olive Av on 3-3 (DN). A Merlin graced the Petaluma Sewer Ponds on 2-20 (KVV,KC). A Common Gallinule was at the Santa Rosa Creek off Willowside Rd on 2-20, and 2 Black-necked Stilts were there the same day (both TC,DE). A 1st year Glaucous Gull was found at Salmon Creek on 2-12 (KVV,KC). A Pomarine Jaeger and several Cassins Auklets were noted off Duncans Landing on 2-12 (KVV,KC). The first reported Allen's Hummingbird was in Petaluma on 2-14 (DN). The earliest Barn Swallow report was from the Bodega Farm Pond on 2-26 (HC). A Townsend's Solitaire was seen regularly throughout early February in Petaluma in Petaluma, but has not been seen recently (KVV,KC). The adult White-throated Sparrow was still in Kenwood as of 3-1 (DE).

Contributors: Karen Cartier, Terry Colborn, Hal Corey, Doug Ellis, Stephen Gross, Rick Lebaudour, Dan Nelson, Wini Nelson and Kent Van Vuren.

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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 121 of Darwin Hall, Sonoma State College, Rohnert Park.

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OFFICERS

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