

# Kite Tales

MAY

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
Vol. 16, No. 9 Sonoma County

1982

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

### May 13, Thursday, 6 p.m. RROS "Potluck"

Group picnic area, Sugarloaf Ridge State Park for our last get-together until Sept. Bring your favorite food to share and bring your own utensils (silverware, plates and cups). Plan on dinner about 6 p.m., then a short business meeting followed by owling, poorwilling and lots of fun! Take Highway 12 from Santa Rosa or Sonoma areas and follow the signs to Kenwood. About  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile north of Kenwood, turn onto Adobe Canyon Road. Follow this road to the park; from the ranger booth proceed on the main road to the group picnic area. There will be no admission charge to RROS members and guests.

### May 22, Saturday, 7 a.m. Pelagic Trip

We will be taking the Bodega Marine Lab boat, the "Stephanie" for our offshore trip. The approximate cost will be \$25.00 per person; the limit is 25 people. Contact Rick LeBaudour for reservations before that day (525-9158). Mail your check (to RROS) to Rick at 349 10th St., Santa Rosa, CA 95401, or pay the day of the trip. Meet at the Tides parking lot, Bodega Bay at 7 a.m. and plan to return about 3 p.m. Bring chum (popcorn, suet, etc.) and your lunch and wear soft-soled shoes. Act fast if you want to go!

### May 22, Saturday, Field Trip to Rock Pile Rd.

Field trip to Rock Pile Rd. to look for Blue Grouse. Anyone planning on going please call Rick LeBaudour (525-9158) for further information. Also, we need a leader for this trip.

### June 5, Saturday, Field Trip to Gualala

Field trip to Gualala to look for Common Nighthawk, Purple Martins & Tufted Puffins. Leader Mike Parmeter will be going up the night before. Contact him (255-6757) to make campsite reservations for this weekend of birding on the coast.

## Bird Counts

Arroyo Cheap Thrills	May 16	Dave Shuford	415-669-7429 or
		PRBO	415-868-1221
Pt. Reyes Peninsula	May 23	Bob Yutzy	415-868-1434
Southern Marin	June 5	Grace McMichael	415-388-7594

## DUES

Your Treasurer will be happy to receive your dues payment. Please mail to Roy Webb, 24 LaVista Way, San Rafael 94901, or give to him at the next meeting. Dues are: \$6.00 for family, \$4.50 for individuals, \$2.00 for students. Keep receiving your Kite Tales!

ELECTION RETURNS

Our new officers have been elected. Many thanks to the old officers and the nominating committee. Your new officers are: President -- Hal Corey, Vice-President -- Dan Nelson, Secretary -- Ruth Hawksley, Treasurer -- Roy Webb, Field Trips -- Rick LeBaudour, Observations -- Dan Nelson, Social -- Louise Johnston, Kite Tales -- Wini Nelson, and Christmas Count -- Doug Ellis

FIELD TRIP RESULTS

About 10 birders enjoyed a glorious day at Annadel on April 17th tallying 54 species.

Mallard, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Osprey, California Quail, Coot, Mourning Dove, Pigmy Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, Rufous Hummingbird, Allen's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Acorn Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Western Flycatcher, Violet-green Swallow, Steller's Jay, Scrub Jay, Common Raven, Common Crow, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Common Bushtit, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Wrentit, House Wren, Bewick's Wren, Starling, Hutton's Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Black-throated Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Red-winged Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Black-headed Grosbeak, Purple Finch, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Brown Towhee, Oregon Junco, Chipping Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow.

Easter Week Trip to Death Valley

Lucy's Warblers, Great-tailed Grackles, Roadrunners, Black-throated Sparrows, Lewis Woodpeckers, Common Snipe and many more were seen during Easter week in Death Valley by Dave LaFollette, Terry & Diane Colburn, Hal & Olive Corey. And wouldn't you know it - Starlings and House Sparrows at Scotty's Castle!

PHONE CHAIN

Dan Nelson (762-6152)	A	Don & Louise Johnston (823-2245)
Deyea Harper (542-1542) Terry Babineaux (584-5209)	B	Betty Burrige (527-0225 or 542-2771 Ext.247)
Rick LeBaudour (525-9158)	C	Richard Merriss (525-8629 or 544-0927)
Hal Corey (542-8429)	D	Ruth Hawksley (539-2616)
David LaFollette (838-9425)	E	Clarence Wolcott (433-1351)
James Walker (527-9820)	F	Jack Arnold (539-4544)
Wayne Tillay (965-2978 or 965-7597)	G	Benjamin D. Parmeter (255-6757)

### Rules of the Chain:

1. Names on either side of letter designation in middle of the sheet are members of that team.
2. Upon hearing of a rare bird a team member is responsible for informing his team member and that team is to decide who is to call a member of another team.
3. When a member of one team calls a member of another team, that person is to inform him or her what teams have not been called through the use of the letter designates. While calls need not be made on a letter sequential basis, each team in line is responsible for calling a member of another team that has not been informed (unless after a period of time members of one team do not answer their phone).
4. Any member of the phone chain who does not pass along any bird called by another member will be dropped from the chain unless they can show that bird not to be rare enough for the chain (if two other people on the chain besides the original caller think its rare it is deemed rare).
5. Those objecting to the present set-up of the chain may at any time amend it or form a new one.

### SONOMA COUNTY BREEDING BIRD SURVEY

The Spring of 1982 marks the beginning of the Sonoma County Breeding Bird Project. We will attempt to discover the known nesting sites of past breeding birds and will ask for volunteers to search for nests during this breeding season. We will ask at this time for confirmed records only. The following criteria can be used as confirmed: Distraction display or injury feigning; coition; nest building by any species except wrens and woodpeckers; used nests; female with egg in the oviduct; recently fledged young, i.e. flightless juveniles; an adult carrying a feed sac; an adult with food for young (great care must be used on this); adults entering or leaving a nest site which is obviously occupied as such; a nest with eggs (cowbird eggs count as cowbird and host nest); a nest with young or downy young. Please send your past breeding records to Doug Ellis, P.O.Box 155, Eldridge 95431. Current records can be sent to that address or to Dr. Jack Arnold, 199 Calistoga Rd., Santa Rosa 95401. Please include date, type of confirmation, location, species and all other appropriate data.

OBSERVATIONS -- Dan Nelson (762-6152)

A single Red-throated Loon was seen along Hwy 37 in Solano Co. on 4/14 (DE). 3 Red-necked Grebes were seen on Humboldt Bay on 3/29 (DE,BDP,JP,KC), and a high count of 7 were seen in the Bodega Bay area on 4/12 (RL). The Little Blue Heron which has wintered at Lake Talawa was seen on 3/29 (DE,KC,BDP,JP). A high count of 200 Black Brant were recorded from Bodega Harbor on 3/23 (HC). A "Blue" Snow Goose was seen at Lake Earl, Humboldt Co. on 3/28 (BDP,KC,JP,DE). 3 Blue-winged Teal were on a pond near the old

## Observations--Cont.

airfield in Santa Rosa on 4/25 (RL). 1 Barrow's Goldeneye was in a flock of 30 Common Goldeneyes at a pond along River Rd. on 3/4 (DE). A fem. Oldsquaw was found outside of Bodega Harbor on 4/22 (WC) and was seen the following day (HC,SC,RH). Two California Condors were seen in Los Angeles Co. over Pyramid Lake on 4/15 (DE). Many Osprey reports come from Bodega Bay, Salmon Creek and along the Russian River (MOB). Both Blue Grouse and Mountain Quail have been reported in small numbers from Rockpile Rd. in the northern section of the county (MOB). A pair of Black Oystercatchers were seen building a nest on Bodega Head. One of these birds, which is color banded, has nested there for the last two years and was banded on the Farallones, 4/4 (DE). A Solitary Sandpiper was found off the Fort Ross Rd. on 4/16, providing one of the few spring migrant records in Sonoma County (DB). Six Greater Yellowlegs were along Willow Creek Rd. on 4/13 (SG). 8 Red Knots were at Bodega Harbor on 4/12 (DE). 1 Rock Sandpiper was still present at Bodega Head as of 3/23 (HC,RH,SC). A Black-necked Stilt was seen on Ramal Rd. in Sonoma Co. on 4/28 (DE). Both South Polar Skua and Sabine's Gulls were seen on a pelagic trip to the Farallones on 4/22 (RM). At least 24 Marbled Murrelets were seen near Bear Harbor, Mendocino Co. on 4/24 (DE). The Barred Owl near Crescent City was still present on 3/27-28 & 29 (DE,KC,BDP,JP). The Saw-whet Owl wintering at Coyote Hills in Fremont was seen well while roosting in mid-April (WN,CN,DN). The Earliest reported Western Kingbirds were 4 on Chileno Valley Rd. on 4/16 (KVV,KC). A Gray Flycatcher was described from Bear Harbor, Mendocino Co. where it is thought to have never occurred previously on 4/24 (DE). Bank Swallows have been seen lately in good numbers at Fort Funston, S.F. A probable Townsend's Solitaire was seen on Schocken Hill, near Sonoma on 4/17. And Blue-gray Gnatcatchers appear to be nesting in that area again (both BP). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were also reported in good numbers from Pine Flat Rd. on 4/15 (RL). Both Nashville and MacGillivray's Warblers were noted in Annadel on 4/21 (RL) and a MacGillivray's was noted at Sugarloaf the same day (HC, et al). A single Black-throated Gray Warbler was seen on Willow Creek Rd. on 4/14 (RM). The earliest Western Tanagers were seen on Rockpile Rd. on 4/25 (RL,JJ). 3 White-throated Sparrows (1 ad., 2 imm's) continued to be seen in Wikiup during the first week of April (BR).

CONTRIBUTORS: Dennis Beal, Kurt Campbell, Stan Carpenter, Karen Cartier, Nancy Conzett, Hal Corey, Doug Ellis, Gerald Finton, Stephen Gross, Ruth Hawksley, James Johnson, Dane Krupa, Rick LeBaudour, Richard Merriss, Clyde & Wini Nelson, Dan Nelson, Benjamin D. Parmeter, John Parmeter, Bill Payne, Bertha Rains and Kent Van Vuren.

\*\* Send observations (including earlier dates for spring arrivals) by August 25 to Dan Nelson for the September Kite Tales.

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, Sept. thru May, at 7:30 pm in Rm 221 of Darwin Hall, Sonoma State College, Rohnert Park.

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OFFICERS

President Hal Corey 422 Ridgeway Santa Rosa CA 95401 542-8429  
Vice-President Dan Nelson 400 Sunnyslope Ave. Petaluma CA 94952 762-6152  
Secretary Ruth Hawksley 49 Howarth Ct Santa Rosa CA 95405 539-2616  
Treasurer Roy Webb 24 LaVista Way San Rafael CA 94901 415-457-5084  
Field Trips Rick LeBaudour 349 10th St Santa Rosa CA 95401 525-9158  
Observations Dan Nelson 400 Sunnyslope Av Petaluma CA 94952 762-6152  
Social Louise Johnston 475 Vine Av Sebastopol CA 95472 823-2245  
Kite Tales Wini Nelson 400 Sunnyslope Av Petaluma CA 94952 762-6152  
Christmas Count Doug Ellis PO Box 155 Eldridge CA 95431 833-4344

Wini Nelson  
400 Sunnyslope Ave.,  
Petaluma CA 94952



Pennsylvania  
USA20c



Dr. Benjamin D. Parmeter  
2500 Emerson Street  
Napa, CA 94558