

# Kite Tales

SEPTEMBER

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
Volume 20, No. 1

Sonoma County

1985

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

### Sept. 12, Thursday, 6 P.M. RROS Potluck and General Meeting

Once again comes time for the first meeting of the season...our annual Fall potluck! We will be at the North Campground in Sugarloaf Ridge State Park. Bring a favorite goodie to share and your own utensils. No admission fee will be charged to RROS members and guests. Plan on dinner at 6 o'clock, then a short business meeting, followed by owling and poorwilling. Directions: take Hwy 12 towards Kenwood. About ½ mile north of Kenwood, turn onto Adobe Canyon Rd. Follow this road to the group picnic area at North Campground. Plan to come and bring a friend and share your summer birding experiences.

### Sept. 15, Sunday, Field Trip to Point Reyes; Doug Ellis, Leader

Meet at Bailey Field Parking Lot, SRJC, at 6:30 A.M. or at the Fish Docks out on Point Reyes at 8 A.M. We'll be looking for vagrants and for newly arrived winter residents. Bring binoculars and field guides, warm clothes, a lunch and a friend. For further information, phone Richard Merriss, 525-8629.

### Next month's Field Trip will be to Point Diablo on Saturday, October 5

Dr. Monte Kirven will lead this trip to the Golden Gate Headlands in search of migrating hawks, Golden Crowned Kinglets and whatever else shows up. We will carpool from Bailey Field Parking Lot, SRJC, at 9 A.M. Others can meet the group at Point Diablo at the first gun bunker at 10 A.M. To get there, take the last Sausalito Exit, just before crossing the Golden Gate Bridge, and head up the hill just west of Hwy 101. The gun bunkers are at the top of the rise. Parking is available at the first one on the left.

### Sept. 19, Thursday, 7:30 P.M. Sonoma County Breeding Bird Atlas

Plans for a Sonoma County Breeding Bird Atlas will be formulated at a meeting at Bob and Bertha Rains' home, 450A Las Casitas, Santa Rosa, on the evening of September 19. Everyone interested in becoming involved with this project is welcome to attend. For information, call 528-6785.

### Fall Seabirds and Whale Trips: Sunday, Oct. 6, and Saturday, Nov. 2

Two pelagic trips to the Cordell Banks now have space available, leaving from Bodega Harbor on October 6 and November 2. Many unusual species of seabirds and a variety of whales and dolphins have been seen in the area; it is currently under review for National Marine Sanctuary status. We will spend a full day aboard the very fast and beautiful 63-foot "Stardust" (a new boat to California waters), exploring the Banks and the adjacent edge of the continental shelf for most of that time. We will have expert leadership and hope to learn more about this under-studied area. Spaces are \$33 each, with special rates available for groups of eight or more. For information call (707) 795-8492; for reservations and final details, send check or money order to Kurt Campbell, PO Box 268, Cotati, CA 94928. Please include phone number.

DUES ARE NOW PAYABLE FOR 1985-86 SEASON

Please send your annual membership check, payable to RROS, to Treasurer Don Johnston, 475 Vine Avenue, Sebastopol, CA 95472. The dues are \$7 for a Family, \$5.50 for an Individual, and \$3 for a Student. Dues cover the period from June 1985 to June 1986 and include a subscription to KITE TALES.

FIELD TRIP RESULTS - Pine Flat, May 18 - Terry Babineaux, Leader

A clear sunny Spring day produced five warbler species, including Nashville, Black-throated Gray and Hermit Warblers for about two dozen birders last May. They also observed several Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, and one was building a nest. The complete list of 67 species is: Turkey Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Kestrel, California and Mountain Quail, Kildeer, Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Common Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Acorn Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Western Kingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Western Flycatcher, Western Wood Peewee, Olive-sided Flycatcher; Violet-Green Swallow, Tree Swallow, Rough-winged, Barn and Cliff Swallows; Scrub and Steller's Jay, Raven and Crow, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bush-tits, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Wren-tit, Bewick's and House Wrens, American Robin, Western Bluebird, Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers, Starling; Hutton's, Solitary and Warbling Vireos; Orange-crowned, Nashville, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Gray and Hermit Warblers; Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Northern Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Purple and House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-sided and Brown Towhees, Lark Sparrow, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Chipping Sparrow, and Song Sparrow, and Brown-headed Cowbird.

OBSERVATIONS - Hal Corey (542-8429)

5/19-Mark West Creek: Yellow-breasted Chat (B & BR). 5/23-Michigan: Kirtland's Warbler; Mackinac: Piping Plover; Wisconsin: Bobolink, American Woodcock (RR). 5/28-Marin Co: White-eyed Vireo, Black and White Warbler (DN). 6/1-Wikiup: Red Crossbills; 6/2-Lakeville Hwy: Great Horned Owl, Western Kingbird nest (B & BR). 6/7-Sea Ranch: Harlequin Duck; Gualala area: Common Merganser with 8 young, 13 Purple Martins, Hermit Warbler, Common Moorhen; Valley Crossing, Sonoma Co: Red-breasted Sapsucker (BDP, JP). 6/13-Cader Lane: 7 Wilson's Phalaropes, 11 Black-necked Stilts, 15 American Avocets; Lichau Rd: Horned Lark (FB, HC). 6/23-Pelagic trip to Cordell Banks: 75 Black-footed Albatross, 8 Northern Fulmar, 6 Pink-footed Shearwater, 1,000 Sooty Shearwater, 6 Cook's Petrel, 15 Fork-tailed Storm Petrel, 40 Leach's Storm Petrel, 150 Ashy Storm Petrel, 4 Pomarine Jaeger, 3 South Polar Skua, 7 Sabine's Gull, 2 Arctic Tern, 11 Xantus's Murrelet, 2,000 Cassin's Auklet, 10 Rhinoceros Auklet, 1 Tufted Puffin, 2 Horned Puffin (BDP & JP). "One of the best pelagic trips I've ever made," said Mike!

6/25-Near Peregoy Meadow, Yosemite: Great Gray Owl; Bridal Veil Campground: pair of Black-backed Woodpeckers at nest; Westfall Meadow: several Pine Grosbeaks (BDP & JP). 7/1-Petaluma: Hooded Oriole (DN). 7/9-Cave Creek, Arizona: Flame-colored Tanager; Madera Canyon: Lucifer, Violet-crowned and White-eared Hummingbirds; Montezuma Quail; Florida Wash: Buff-collared Nightjar (RL & DE). 7/19-Alamos, Mexico: Streaked-backed Oriole, Black-throated Magpie Jay, White-fronted Parrot, Elegant Quail, Blue-black Grassquit, Groove-billed Ani, Lesser Roadrunner, Mangrove Cuckoo, Magnificent Frigatebird (RL & DE).

7/25-Russian River near Penny Island: 2 Golden Eagles (1 Ad, 1 Imm.), 53 Common Mergansers, 2 Brown Pelicans, 13 Band-tailed Pigeons, 1 Osprey (JS, CW & HC).  
7/20-Lake Pillsbury: 2 Bald Eagles, Purple Martin (DN). 7/26-Penny Island: 106 Common Mergansers (BDP, JP). 7/27-Bidwell State Park, Butte Co: Yellow-billed Cuckoo (BDP, JP); Hwy 37, Skaggs Island Rd: 33 Black-necked Stilts, 125 American Avocets, 17 White Pelicans, 2 Black-shouldered Kites, 33 Long-billed Curlew, 2 Caspian Tern; Bodega Head: Wandering Tattler, 3 Pigeon Guillemot, 5 Forster's Tern (JRA, JS, H & OC). 7/27-Colusa Wildlife Refuge: 8 White-faced Ibis (BDP & JP). 7/31-Golden Gate Park: large flock of Pygmy Nuthatches (B & BR). 8/2-over 200 Brown Pelicans at Tomales Bay (B & BR). 8/5-Cader Lane: 175 Wilson's Phalaropes (DN & WN).

8/6-Sierra Valley: Brewer's Sparrow, 33 Yellow-headed Blackbirds (JS, H & OC).  
8/9-Los Padres: 4 California Condor(RR). 8/9-Alpine Co: Williamson's Sapsuckers, male and female (JS, H & OC). 8/10-Abbott's Lagoon: 1 Pectoral Sandpiper, 4 Baird's Sandpiper, 1 Wilson's Phalarope, 5 Red-necked Phalarope (BDP & JP).  
8/7-Petaluma: Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (DN). 8/10-Pelagic Trip, Cordell Banks: 1 South Polar Skua, 3 Black-footed Albatross (CN & DN).

Observers: Dr. John R. Arnold, Terry & Lee Babineaux, Faye Beeman, Hal & Olive Corey, Doug Ellis, Rick Lebaudour, Dan Nelson, Wini Nelson, Clyde Nelson, Benjamin D. Parmeter, John Parmeter, Bob & Bertha Rains, Ruth Rudesill, Jean Smith, Jim Steele. (Guest from Scotland), Clarence Wolcott.

#### TRAILER PARK PROPOSED AT BODEGA BAY ABOVE CLARKE MARSH

Sonoma County Parks Department would like to develop more trailer park space to accommodate seasonal fishermen. According to Parks Director Joe Rodota, the salmon fishermen are overloading the present county parks, and he thinks another facility should be made available near the new Spud Point Marina.

A meeting of the Bodega Bay Chamber of Commerce, open to all interested, will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 4, at 8 P.M. at the Tides Restaurant. County Parks Director Rodota will be there to discuss the issues.

One of the options suggested involves state-owned property above Clarke Marsh, which is the big open field to your back when you bird Spud Point. Clarke Marsh is essential bird habitat. The county, on the other hand, owns land in the neighborhood of the Community Center, north of town and west of Hwy 1. Someone at County Parks conceived the notion of making a swap with the state for their land above Clarke Marsh. Many Bodega Bay residents are strongly opposing any development that would endanger Clarke Marsh.

Curtis Mitchell, regional director of the State Park Service, has said that before any decision is reached, he would have to collect more data and would want to hold a public hearing...something to watch for!

PEREGRINE FALCONS ARE SHOWING A SIGNIFICANT POPULATION INCREASE in the California North Coast Range, according to Dr. Monte Kirven, BLM biologist and part-time instructor at Santa Rosa Junior College. He has observed 13 new nesting sites in Sonoma, Mendocino, Lake and Humboldt counties. The survey area of 7500 square miles has had a 30 per cent increase in one year, in sharp contrast to the previous year when no increase was observed in the same area. This sudden upsurge in the breeding population, says Dr. Kirven, may be the direct result of the inter-agency management program following the guidelines of the Peregrine Falcon Recovery Plan.

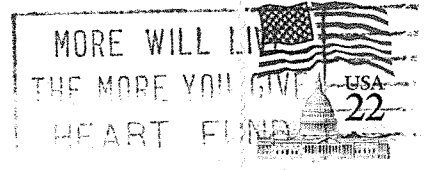
Dr. Kirven will be offering a 6-week course on Natural History of Endangered Birds and Mammals at Santa Rosa Junior College, starting October 31: Biology 41...of special interest to those who would like to learn more about endangered species management.

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. through May, at 7:30 p.m. in Room 221 of Darwin Hall, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA 94928

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OFFICERS

<u>President</u>	Kathy Mugele	15420 Woodside, Glen Ellen, CA	95442	938-2134
<u>V-President</u>	Janet Bosshard	434 Hendley St., Santa Rosa, CA	95404	526-5883
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<u>Social</u>	Shirley Myers	4815 Valley Quail Ln. Santa Rosa, CA	95401	823-9512
<u>Kite Tales</u>	Jean Smith	519 Sunnyvale Healdsburg, CA	95448	433-2542
<u>Christmas Count</u>	Doug Ellis	P.O.Box 155 Eldridge, CA		833-4344

Jean C. Smith  
519 Sunnyvale Drive  
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