

Kite Tales

DECEMBER

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Volume 20, No. 4 Sonoma County

1985

COMING ATTRACTIONS

December 8, Sunday, Field Trip to East Bay

Kurt Campbell lived in the East Bay for some years and will lead this trip to some of his favorite birding spots. We will meet for carpooling at 7 AM, Bailey Field, and will go first to the Berkeley Pier. Others can meet us there at 8 AM at the foot of University Ave.

December 14, Thursday, 7:30 PM, General Meeting

This will be our Slide Show night, one of the best meetings of the year! So comb through your slides and pick out the 10 you like best and share them with the rest of us. Whether birds, scenery or people, if you like 'em, we will too!

December 22, Sunday - RROS CHRISTMAS COUNT

Please note this date is different from that reported last month, which fell a day outside the official count period.

This will be our 26th Christmas Count...aimed at breaking last year's record of 150 species! We will be covering Greater Santa Rosa, rain or shine. Doug Ellis will be the Coordinator. If you would like to participate and don't already have a team organized, please phone him at work, 539-3443, Wednesdays through Sundays, 5 PM to Midnight. Or drop him a note at PO Box 155, Eldridge 95431. A donation of \$3 is requested by National Audubon from each participant.

The Compilation and Pot Luck Supper will again be at the Wikiup Greens Clubhouse, thanks to Bob and Bertha Rains. Please bring something to share - soup, chili, sandwich fixings, dessert - whatever. You need NOT bring utensils - everything is there. Arrival time should be anytime after 5 PM. Final compilation will start around 6:30 PM.

To get there, take Hwy 101 north of Santa Rosa, exit on River Road (about 2 miles north of Coddington); head east to first stop sign (Old Redwood Hwy), turn north on Old Redwood Hwy about 1 mile, crossing bridge; take first right after bridge onto Wikiup Drive; proceed east about 1/2 mile; take right turn onto Las Casitas & then immediate left. Parking on the left and up the street.

Other Christmas Counts

- Dec. 21, Saturday - PRBO, Pt Reyes; Irene Tomasi
- Dec. 22, Sunday - Oakland
- Dec. 27, Friday - Monterey
- Dec. 28, Saturday - So. Marin; Ken Howard, Dianne Sierra
- Dec. 29, Sunday - West. Sonoma Co. (Madrone Audubon); Betty Burrige 527-0225
- Dec. 30, Monday - San Francisco
- Jan. 1, Wednesday - Angwin; Phil Burton 963-5744
- Jan. 4, Saturday - Lake Co.; Kris Tyner 998-1569; PO Box 1445, Clear Lake Oaks 95423

OBSERVATIONS - Hal Corey (542-8429)

10/1 -Pt Reyes, Nunes Ranch: Black-throated Blue Warbler (DN, WN).

10/24-Rockpile Rd: 4 Blue Grouse, flocks of Cedar Waxwings, Robins, Band-tailed Pigeons, 31 Western Bluebirds, Pileated Woodpecker, Wild Turkey calling, not seen (CW, JT, HC).

10/26-Bodega Bay: Clark's Grebe, Elegant and Forster's Terns, Grant, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Snowy Plover, Wandering Tattler, Pigeon Guillemot (BB, H & OC, MOB).

10/29-Bodega Bay: Red-throated Loon; Horned, Eared, Western Grebe; Eurasian Wigeon, Surfbird, Glaucous-winged and Mew Gull, Great Horned Owl, Fox Sparrow (JA).

11/1-Pt Reyes: Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Surf Scoter, Golden Eagle, Osprey, Merlin, Lesser Golden Plover, Common Snipe, Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Varied Thrush, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Palm Warbler, Tri-colored Blackbird, Pine Siskin, Lincoln's Sparrow (JA, BDP, LCB).

11/2-Bodega Bay: Eurasian Wigeon, Virginia Rail, Marsh Wren, Fox Sparrow (JA).

11/3-Cordell Banks: Short-tailed Albatross, 2 Laysan Albatross, 12 Black-footed Albatross, Northern Fulmar; Shearwaters: Sooty, Flesh-footed, Pink-footed, Buller's, Short-tailed; Wilson's and Ashy Storm Petrels; Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets; Bonaparte's Gull (RS, BDP, B & BR, KC, RM, MOB).

11/3-Bodega Head: Wandering Tattler, 2 Whimbrel.
Pt Reyes, near RCA Station: 2 Lesser Golden Plover; Limantour, Muddy Hollow: Ring-necked Duck (MN, BH).
11/6-SeaHorse Ranch Pond (formerly Chanslor Ranch): 4 Gadwall, 5 Canvasbacks, Salmon Creek: 2 Common Snipe. Rail Pond: Western Tanager. Doran Lagoon: 376 Dunlin (FB, MOB).

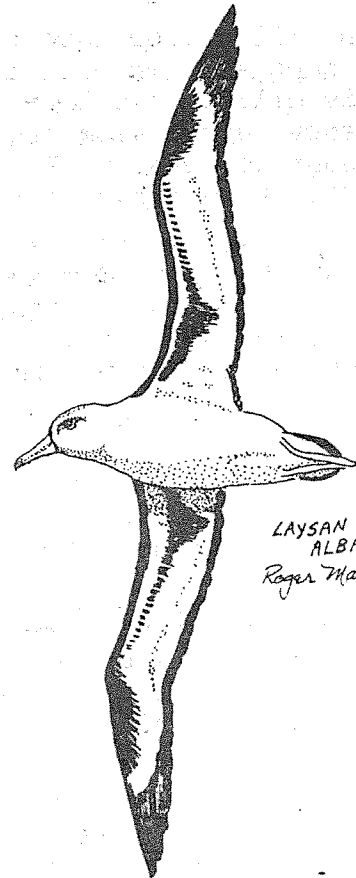
11/7-Wikiup: White-throated Sparrow (B & BR).

11/14-Rockpile Rd: 2 Blue Grouse exploded from perch in trees; Lark Sparrow, Varied and Hermit Thrush, flocks of Cedar Waxwings, Sora at pond near Visitors' Center, Robins, Band-tailed Pigeons, Mountain Quail, Golden Eagle (FB, WM, JMc, HC, MOB).
Stage Gulch Rd: Golden Eagle (RR).

11/15-Oakville Grade: 2 Varied Thrush. 11/16-Same area: 16 Varied Thrush (SP). 11/16-Kenwood: Red-breasted Sapsucker, Dark-eyed Junco species, similar to Oregon but no pink sides (RR).

11/18-Limantour: Common Snipe, Osprey; Muddy Hollow: 1 imm. Tundra Swan (MMc, JS). 11/20-Sugarloaf: Northern Pygmy Owl, Varied Thrush; Woodpeckers: Pileated, Hairy, Acorn, Nuttall's, Northern Flicker (J & JT, DA, FB).

Observers: Dick Ashford, Dr. J. R. Arnold, Faye Beeman, Dr. L. C. Binford, Betty Burrige, Kurt Campbell, Hal & Olive Corey, Bob Hudson, Roger Marlowe, Marge McCulley, John McDonagh, Warren Munson, Mike Nelligan, Dan Nelson, Wini Nelson, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Susan Patla, Bob & Bertha Rains, Ruth Rudesill, Jean Smith, Rich Stallcup, Jim & Jean Tonascia, Jack Troutfetter, Clarence Wolcott.



LAYSAN
ALBATROSS
Roger Marlowe

FIELD TRIP RESULTS

The Short-tailed Albatross that appeared at two of the several November pelagic trips made the Big News this month. This big dark bird with his massive light bill was distinctly larger than the other albatrosses that showed up on the same trips. Roger Marlowe's excellent slides of the bird allowed other members of RROS at our last meeting to study this oceanic flyer.

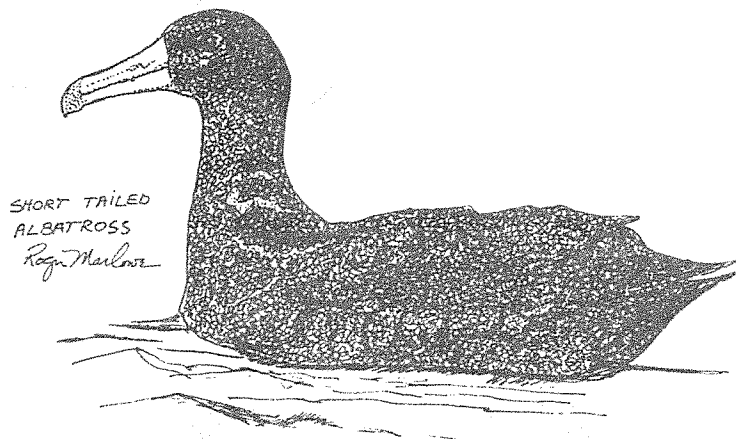
Which brings us to the fascinating news that both Laysan and Black-footed Albatross appeared at all five trips to the Cordell Banks this month: on November 3, on November 4 as reported by Jon Winter, November 5, 7 and 17 as reported by Kurt Campbell and Roger Marlowe.

Besides the 1 Short-tailed, the 2 Laysan and the 12 Black-footed Albatross on the November 3 trip, the other headliners were 7 Wilson's Storm Petrels, rare in this area. Other sightings: Flesh-footed Shearwater; Storm Petrels: 2 Black, 3 Ashy and 13 Fork-tailed; 235 Northern Fulmar, Short-tailed Shearwater, 10 Pink-footed Shearwater, 110 Cassin's Auklet, 22 Rhinoceros Auklet, 65 Sooty Shearwater, 200 Buller's Shearwater, 13 Pomerine Jaeger. Mammals observed were Blue Whale, Humpback Whale and Dall's Porpoise.

The birders who went out on the November 5 trip saw mostly the same species, but the Short-tailed Albatross did not appear on the November 7 trip and has not been seen since, so far as we know.

Another pelagic trip to Cordell Banks on November 17 again turned up with 2 Laysan Albatross as well as 30 Black-footed Albatross, 1 Fork-tailed Storm Petrel, 1 Ashy Storm Petrel, 50 Short-tailed Shearwaters, 30 Sooty Shearwaters, 300 Northern Fulmars, 35 Buller's Shearwaters, 3 Ancient Murrelets, 300 Cassin's Auklets, 15 Rhinoceros Auklets, 1 Blue Whale, 1 Humpback Whale and at least 20 Dall's Porpoises.

The next scheduled pelagic trip to Cordell Banks is for February 23, 1986. Spaces are \$33 each. For information and reservations, please call Kurt Campbell, (707) 795-8492. Checks should be sent to him at PO Box 268, Cotati 94928.



BREEDING BIRD ATLAS - Update

Betty Burrige, Coordinator for RROS' Breeding Bird Atlas project, met with her planning committee on November 20. She reported on a tremendous amount of study, research and consultation that is essential to resolving basic questions about the project: Number and size of grids, method of measuring grids, tax-deductible status of sponsoring organization, financing, among others. Western Field Ornithologists, one organization in the world-wide movement promoting these atlases, will conduct a workshop on Breeding Bird Atlasing in Sacramento February 7, 1986. Betty and several others from here will be going. They hope to have plans in place and ready for action in the spring of 1986.

RROS MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO AN AUTOGRAPH PARTY on Sunday, December 1, 1 - 5 P.M., at Natures Window, 2417 Magowan Drive, Montgomery Village. Deyea Harper and Adeene Nelligan will be hosting the following authors and artists, who will be signing their own books: BIRDS FOR REAL by Rich Stallcup (an aid to using the Golden Press book, "Birds of North America"); DISCOVERING SIERRA BIRDS by Edward Beedy and Steve Granholm, and illustrators Keith Hansen and John Peterson (a field guide to use in the Sierra Nevada); OFF THE BEATEN TRACK by Jerry Parker: odyssey of a naturalist (essays by columnist for Sonoma Index Tribune). Come and meet the authors and artists and enjoy a snack with them.

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

OFFICERS

President - Kathy Mugele, 15420 Woodside, Glen Ellen 95442	938-2134
Vice-President - Janet Bosshard, 434 Hendley St, Santa Rosa 95404	526-5883
Secretary - Ruth Rudesill, PO Box 371, Kenwood 95452	833-6026
Treasurer - Don Johnston, 475 Vine Ave, Sebastopol 95472	823-2245
Field Trips - Richard Merriss, 2046 Hearn Ave, Santa Rosa 95401	525-8629
Observations - Hal Corey, 422 Ridgeway, Santa Rosa 95401	542-8429
Social - Shirley Myers, 4815 Valley Quail Lane, Santa Rosa 95401	823-9512
<u>Kite Tales</u> - Jean Smith, 519 Sunnyvale Dr, Healdsburg 95448	433-2542
<u>Christmas Count</u> - Doug Ellis, PO Box 155, Eldridge 95431	833-4344



Jean C. Smith
519 Sunnyvale Drive
Healdsburg, CA 95448

