

Kite Tales

JANUARY

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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Sonoma County

1986

COMING ATTRACTIONS

January 9, Thursday, 7:30 P.M., General Meeting

John Kelly of Point Reyes Bird Observatory will talk about the winter ecology of shorebirds along the Central California coast. He will show slides taken by himself and Gary Page. Here is a chance to learn why our familiar winter residents have chosen our beaches for themselves.

January 11, Saturday, Field Trip to Delta area in Central Valley

Dan Nelson will lead this trip to see the **Sand Hill Cranes**, geese and other wintering birds along the sloughs and in the fields of the delta. Please meet for carpooling at 7 A.M. at Bailey field, SRJC; or at 8:30 A.M. at the east end of Rio Vista Bridge on Highway 12. This trip always turns up many birds, large and small, that we don't often see around Sonoma County. Be prepared for cold and probably fog.

February 23, Pelagic Trip to Cordell Banks

The numbers of albatross, shearwaters and petrels that have been feeding off the Banks all Fall have made these trips real adventures for birders...and for whale-watchers. The whales, dolphins and porpoises have been out there, too! 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.

RROS CHRISTMAS COUNT

The Greater Santa Rosa Area Christmas Count reached a new high of 152, possibly 153 species on December 22, breaking last year's record of 150!

Doug Ellis, Coordinator of the Count, listed a few highlights among the species as Western Grebe, American Bittern, Cinnamon Teal, Hooded Merganser, Golden and Bald Eagles, Ferruginous Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Merlin, Prairie Falcon, Peregrine Falcon, and Burrowing Owl.

A Western Flycatcher was spotted, the first time for this Christmas Count. Other unusual winter birds seen were House Wren, Hermit and Wilson's Warblers.

A yellow-bellied or Red-naped Sapsucker might be the 153rd bird on our list, but more details are needed before it can be officially accepted.

A complete list of the Christmas Count birds observed in the Greater Santa Rosa Area will be included in next month's KITE TALES.

OBSERVATIONS - Hal Corey (542-8429)

11/7-Van Damme State Park: 4 Red Crossbills (BDP); 11/8-MacKerricher State Park: Lesser Golden Plover (BDP). 11/9-Shield's Marsh near Inverness: Swamp Sparrow (BDP, JSt).

11/12-Poppy Drive: American Bittern, Rufous-crowned Sparrow (CMac). 11/14-Rockpile Road: Second Blue Grouse (CMac).

11/17-Bodega Harbor: Eurasian Wigeon; Duncan's Landing: Harlequin Duck; Willow Creek Canyon: pair Spotted Owl calling, 3 Saw-whet Owl calling (BDP, JSt).

12/2-Guerneville: albinistic Varied Thrush (EC). 12/4-Bodega Harbor: Western, Eared, Red-necked Grebe; 1 Canada Goose, minima; a fishing, male Red-breasted Merganser was attacked and killed by 6 second-winter Herring Gulls (FB, CMac, HC, MOB).

12/7-Crane Canyon Road: Golden Eagle, imm. (T & LB).

12/8-Berkeley Pier: Clark's Grebe; Alameda Shore Drive: 14 Canada Geese, 21 Long-billed Curlew, Glaucous-winged Gull; Lake Merritt: 23 Common Goldeneye, 3 Barrow's Goldeneye (KC, RM, MD, JSm, CW, HC, RR)

12/12-Skagg's Island: 2 Rough-legged Hawks, Cooper's Hawk; Burrowing, Short-eared, Great-horned Owl; Green-winged and Cinnamon Teal, Tree Swallow, Allen's Hummingbird (FB, MOB).

12/17-Hidden Valley: White-throated Sparrow (JT).

12/18-Lake Ralphine: flocks of American Robins, Cedar Waxwings, Varied Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Cooper's Hawk, Green-backed Heron, Mourning Dove, Wrentit, Northern Shoveler, White-breasted Nuthatch (FB, MOB).

12/18-Hidden Valley: Cooper's Hawk (JT).

12/19-Limantour Estero, Muddy Hollow: 31 Ring-necked Duck, 11 Canvasback, 9 Northern Shoveler, 7 Common Goldeneye, 2 Gadwall, 5 Pintail, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Wrentit (HC, JSm, CW).

12/22-Bennett Valley: Golden Eagle, ad. (LR, H & OC).

Trumpeter Swans reported at Garcie River and Tomales Bay but not confirmed yet.

Observers: Terry & Lee Babineaux, Faye Beeman, Kurt Campbell, Edith Coon, Hal & Olive Corey, Mark Delwiche, Carol MacMillan, Richard Merriss, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Lois Roberts, Jean Smith, Ruth Rudesill, Jim Steele from Scotland, Jack Troutfetter, Clarence Wolcott.



TWO MORE CHRISTMAS COUNTS THIS MONTH!

January 1, Wednesday - Anqwin: Phil Burton 963-5744

January 4, Saturday - Lake County: Kris Tyner 998-1569

FIELD TRIP RESULTS

The expedition to the East Bay on December 8 turned up 101 species with nine observers. Kurt Campbell met the group at Berkeley Pier, where they watched a Clark's Grebe. They then caravanned over to Alameda's South Shore Refuge, where the shorebirds and water birds were thick. Here were a large flock of Long-billed Curlews napping at the water's edge. A Black Scoter was spotted far out in the bay. On the eastern Alameda shore is another refuge, mostly filled with gulls this day. Across on the San Leandro side were a flock of Canada Geese.

The next stop was Lake Merritt, which produced a Barrow's Goldeneye and a Sharp-shinned Hawk. The group then went on to Mountain View Cemetery, where they found a Townsend's Warbler near some ponds in the old part of the cemetery. Final stop was the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza for more shorebirds and ducks.

Albatross Update. Roger Marlowe saw two Laysan Albatross on December 7 when he took another trip out to the Cordell Banks.

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS

Betty Burrige, Coordinator, Breeding Bird Atlas Project, reported on what she has learned regarding the status and liability of a sponsoring organization. An organization needs to be declared non-profit by the state in order for the volunteers to have their expenses and donations tax-deductible. She also learned that to limit liability of the members, an organization should be incorporated.

So to establish a non-profit, charitable corporation would require the advice and a good many hours of work by legal counsel and by a Certified Public Accountant. The cost of liability insurance might take a fair-sized chunk of RROS' modest annual income.

Bertha Rains pointed out that an organization need not be incorporated to be declared non-profit, and she volunteered to fill out the necessary forms. However, the liability could still be a problem.

After some discussion, RROS members, most of whom belong to Madrone Audubon Society, voted to request Madrone Audubon to sponsor the Breeding Bird Atlas Project. Madrone Audubon Society already has non-profit, tax-deductible status and carries liability insurance. The participation of all possible Madrone and RROS members will be essential to the success of a Sonoma County Breeding Bird Atlas. Madrone Audubon Society agreed a year or two ago to assist with some of the expenses when the Atlas was first proposed for this area. Betty Burrige, a member of Madrone's Board, will present the request at the next Board meeting.

MONO LAKE FOUNDATION is now supporting litigation challenging Los Angeles Department of Water & Power's state-granted license to divert Mono Lake's streams. Success of the suit would require that the license be completely reviewed and conditioned on protection of downstream fisheries. Mono County Superior Court Judge David E. Otis has determined that a trial must take place that will weigh the water needs of Los Angeles against the rights of a healthy Rush Creek to exist. Otis set the trial for August 4, 1986, allowing time for studies to establish flows necessary to sustain a healthy fishery.

Tax-deductible donations to the Mono Lake Legal Defense Fund may be made to Mono Lake Foundation, PO Box 153, Lee Vining, CA 93541.

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.

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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
KITE TALES - Jean Smith, 519 Sunnyvale Dr, Healdsburg 95448	433-2542
Christmas Count - Doug Ellis, PO Box 155, Eldridge 95431	833-4344



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