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Kite Tales



Redwood Region Ornithological Society

Volume 35 Number II

October 2000

Coming Attractions

October 12th, Thursday, 7:30 PM - General Meeting
Administration Building, Laguna Waste Water Treatment Plant
4300 Llano Road, Santa Rosa

Dragonflies of California

Kathy Biggs, local birder, author and publisher of the recently released *Common Dragonflies of California*, will present her very popular slide show and share her cutting edge knowledge of Dragonfly and Damselfly behavior. Bring your binoculars in case she discusses tiny little bits of anatomy.

October 21st, Saturday Field Trip to Bodega Harbor

Meet in the parking area near the rail ponds at the north end of Bodega Harbor at 8:00 AM. We will search for migrants, vagrants, and birds that have returned for the winter. Bring binoculars, scopes, field guides, lunch, water, and warm clothes. Leader is Mike Parmeter. Call Mike at (707) 255-6757 if you have any questions.

November 16-19th Thursday through Sunday 4th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium Radisson Hotel - Stockton, California

The Symposium offers something for everyone: Great seminars; Renowned speakers, including Jon Dunn and Ken Kaufmann; Workshops on bird identification, photo, sketching, gardening.

Discover California's Central Valley birding with knowledgeable local birders who will lead you to known hot spots or to some of their personal "turfs". Expect +/- 160 species including 24 species of waterfowl and 16 species of raptors. Spaces are limited. Register by Nov 10th to ensure space.

Contact Central Valley Bird Club Web page: <http://www.geocities.com/aegolius/cvbc.html>
Or contact Frances Oliver (209) 369-2010

October 20th, Friday - Observations Deadline

The 20th is our deadline for Kite Tales observations. Please forward sightings to Ned Wynn 129-B Powell Ave. Healdsburg, Ca 95448 707 431-8412 or via email: ekwynn@pon.net

October 25th, Wednesday - Kite Tales Deadline

Send announcements, articles, complaints, trivia, errata, letters to the editor and such to Gerry Mugele PO Box 813 Glen Ellen, Ca 95442 or via email: mewgull@ix.netcom.com

Good Birding Spots

Well, there ain't none ...

Actually, there are plenty of 'em around here, but we just didn't have anyone to do a write-up of their favorite spot. Is it a secret? Aren't you willing to share with your RROS friends?

GBS Coordinator, Ted Eliot, asks you to consider helping out with this fine series. Ted says:

Articles Needed on Good Birding Spots
RROS Members are invited to contribute 500-word (+/- 25%) articles on "Good Birding Spots" for future issues of Kite Tales. Articles should be submitted to the editor by the 25th of the month.

To get you started: among the good birding spots not yet covered are Annadel State Park, Bodega Bay, coastal spots such as Duncan's Landing, Wright's Beach and Russian Gulch, Kings Ridge Road, Tubbs Island, Lake Hennessey, Salmon Creek Road, and Grizzly Island. Please notify Ted Eliot (935-3410, patted@sonic.net) what area you will be covering for what issue.

Phone Wheel Update Time

It has been eighteen months since the RROS phone wheel was last updated. At the October meeting we will begin the update process anew.

Please review the list below and notify President Betty of your decision to be either added or deleted. Betty can be reached at 707 539-8664 or by email at blgroce @ Prodigy.net.

(Alternatively you may submit your request at the October meeting or by email or US Mail to your editor.)

Below is our phone wheel as published in April of 1999:

Reminder: please keep phoning until you hear a live person, otherwise the rare bird may be missed.

- 1. Richard Merriss 707 525-8629
- 2. Rick LeBaudour 707 792-1800
- 4. Alan Wight 707 763-8572
- 5. Gerry Mugele 707 938-2134

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- 5. Gerry Mugele 707 938-2134
- 6. Ted Eliot 707 935-3410
- 7. Mike Parmeter 707 255-6757
- 8. Wayne Tillay 707 965-2978
- 9. Ruth Rudesill 707 833-6026
- 10. Ian Morrison 707 833-2065
- 11. Bob Rains 707 528-6785
- 12. Ann Stone 415 346-8360
- 13. Tony Kroha 707 537-9648
- 14. Linda Allen 707 538-7256
- 15. Diane Hichwa 707 579-1182
- 16. Dan Wilson 707 579-3949
- 17. Betty Groce 707 539-8664
- 18. Betty Burr ridge 707 527-0225
- 19. Avis Anderson 707 539-0470
- 20. Deyea Harper 707 542-1542
- 21. David Hoffmann 707 546-0325
- 22. Linda Petru lias 707 632-5532
- 23. Louise Johnston 707 823-2245
- 24. Ned Wynn 707 431-8412

The advantage of a phone wheel listing is that you will be notified of the sightings of rare birds. The responsibility is to phone the next person on the list until you reach a live person.

Pelagic Trip to Davidson Seamount

Monterey Bay Whale Watch & Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society announce an exploratory 24 hour deep water pelagic trip from Monterey on October 22-23, 2000, for rare birds and cetaceans. The boat will leave from Sam's Fishing on Monterey's Fishermans Wharf at 8 pm on Sunday, Oct. 22, and return at 8 pm on Monday, Oct. 23 (weather permitting).

The destination will be the deep waters near the Davidson Seamount and beyond. Birds seen in this area in prior fall trips include Laysan Albatross, Cook's and Stejneger's Petrel, two tropicbirds, and Horned Puffin; research boats have located Murphy's and Dark-rumped Petrels in this vicinity. (more ->)

Pelagic Trip (continued from page 2)

Rare deep-water cetaceans seen in this area in previous autumns include Great Sperm Whale, Baird's Beaked Whale, Sei and Fin Whales, Goose-beaked Whale (Ziphius), and several Mesoplodons. The cost of this first exploratory trip is just \$120 for 24 hours, a substantial bargain compared to most overnight trips.

For the first time ever, a 24 hour overnight trip from Monterey will be aboard a boat with bunks and a large indoor cabin. This is the new 65 foot "Sea Wolf II," a much larger and more comfortable boat than those used previously for deep water trips from Monterey. The primary captain is Richard Ternullo, Monterey's premier bird and whale skipper.

This trip, which may venture 100 miles from Monterey, is limited to 24 persons, and the first dozen to sign up will have bunks. All others will be guaranteed indoor sleeping space, so cold and wet outdoor sleeping will not detract from the adventure. You will need to bring a sleeping bag (and a pad if you do not get a bunk) plus your own food. Leaders are Steve Bailey, Don Roberson, Jim Booker, and Nancy Black.

Reservations are required, and the best way to reserve space is on-line at: montereybaywhalewatch.com/PelagicTrip.htm. Space may be reserved there with a credit card through a secure server; final payment is made at the dock through credit card or cash. You can also reserve space by sending a check for \$120 to Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society ("MPAS") at P.O. Box 985, Pacific Grove CA 93950. Bunks will be assigned to the first persons to confirm reservations through credit card or checks. Refunds will not be available if you cancel less than 4 days prior to the trip; earlier cancellations may be subject to a cancellation fee.

Questions may be addressed on-line: creagrus@montereybay.com or via telephone at 831-373-4463, extension 20

We hope for good weather on October 23 to survey the deep offshore areas of Monterey County, and to visit the Davidson Seamount. Hope to see you there!

Fieldtrip Report

Fieldtrip Report
Point Reyes National Seashore
September 17, 2000

- by Alan Wight

The Nunes Ranch was the hotspot of the day. It was there that we had great looks at a Canada Warbler and a Northern Waterthrush. The other big highlight of the trip was watching as thousands of Sooty Shearwaters flew into Drakes Bay in a huge distant cloud. We made a crude, but conservative, estimate of the number of shearwaters in the flock to be 10,000. Other sightings of interest were a Northern Fulmar, close views of two immature Sharp-shinned Hawks, nine Pectoral Sandpipers, and a big flock of migrating Violet-green and Barn Swallows.

The fieldtrip participants were Carol Brant, Betty Groce, Jack Groce, Ian Morrison, and Alan Wight.

Birds observed: Pacific Loon, Common Loon, Clark's Grebe, Northern Fulmar, Sooty Shearwater, Brown Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Brandt's Cormorant, Pelagic Cormorant, Surf Scoter, Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Killdeer, Pectoral Sandpiper, Heermann's Gull, Western Gull, Pigeon Guillemot, Great Horned Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, Downy Woodpecker, Western Wood-Pewee, Willow Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Violet-green Swallow, Barn Swallow, American Crow, Common Raven, Red-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Winter Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, European Starling, Warbling Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Hermit Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, MacGillivray's Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Canada Warbler, Western Tanager, Lazuli/Indigo Bunting, Savannah Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Tricolored Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, American Goldfinch.

Kite Tales

October 2000

Observations

Species	#	Date	Place	County	Who	Notes
✓ Shy Albatross	1	9/10	Pelagic	SON	RSc, MOB	
Sooty Shearwater	10k+	9/17	Point Reyes	MAR	RR OS trip	
Dark-rumped Petrel	1	7/15	Cordell Banks	MAR	RS, BDP, RR	Life bird for RR&BDP
White-faced Ibis	1	9/3-4	Buhli Station?	NAP	HG, MR	
✓ Ferruginous Hawk	1	9/20	Tomales-Petaluma Rd.	SON	RL	
Merlin	1	9/4	Abbott's Lagoon	MAR	RS	fem.
"	1	9/17	Bodega	SON	RL	
Peregrine Falcon	1	9/4	Shollenberger Park	SON	RL	
Prairie Falcon	1	9/4	Nunes Ranch, Point Reyes	MAR	RS	young
✓ Blue Grouse	5	9/19	Kings Ridge Rd.	SON	BDP, DE	exceptional looks
✓ American Golden Plover	1	9/19	Shollenberger Park	SON	BDP, DE	
✓ Pacific Golden Plover	1	8/27	Doran Park	SON	RR	
Greater Yellowlegs	1	10/1	Yard ! Glen Ellen	SON	GM	
Lesser Yellowlegs	1	9/6	Ramal Rd. Sonoma	SON	RL	
" "	3	9/6	Abbott's Lagoon	MAR	RS	
Red Knot	2	9/17	Bodega	SON	RL	
✓ Semipalmtd Sandpiper	1	8/27	Westside Bodega Harbor	SON	RR	juv.
✓ " "	1	9/2	Doran	SON	RR	
" "	1	9/6	Abbott's Lagoon	MAR	RS	
Baird's Sandpiper	2	9/2	Doran	SON	RR	
" "	1	9/6	Abbott's Lagoon	MAR	RS	
Pectoral Sandpiper	2	9/1	Doran Beach	SON	DA, TE	
✓ " "	4	9/6	Ramal Rd. Sonoma	SON	RL	
" "	1	9/6	Abbott's Lagoon	MAR	RS	
" "	1	9/9	Doran Beach	SON	TE	
" "	1	9/17	Bodega	SON	RL	
Stilt Sandpiper	1	9/6	Abbott's Lagoon	MAR	RS	
✓ " "	1	9/16+	Doran Mudflats	SON	"Gray Jays"	
✓ Buff-breastd Sandpiper	1	9/1-2	Doran Beach	SON	DA, TE, RR	
✓ Ruff	1	9/1-2	Doran Beach	SON	DA, TE, RR	
Jaeger sp.	1	9/3-4	Buhli Station?	NAP	HG, mob	juv.
Common Tern	3	9/6	Abbott's Lagoon	MAR	RS	
" "	2	9/17	Bodega	SON	RL	
✓ Ancient Murrelet	2	9/7	Cove near Fort Ross	SON	CC, LH	
✓ Long-billed Murrelet	1	9/10	Outside Bodega (Pelagic)	SON	RSc, MOB	
Rhinoceros Auklet	1	9/19	Bodega Jetty Channel	SON	BDP, DE	
Pileated Woodpecker	1	Sept	Henno Rd, Glen Ellen	SON	KM	
" "	1	10/1	Yard, Glen Ellen	SON	GM	
Willow Flycatcher	1	9/11	Lebaudour's, Penngrove	SON	RL	
" "	10	9/13	trail to Delta Pond	SON	RL	
✓ Eastern Kingbird	1	9/13+	trail to Delta Pond	SON	RL	
Blue-headed Vireo	1	9/23	Fish Docks Pt. Reyes	MAR	RL	
✓ Purple Martin	4	8/27	Carmody Road Pond	SON	BDP, AW	
✓ Tennessee Warbler	1	9/9	Santa Rosa Creek	SON	RM	
Nashville Warbler	1	9/11	Lebaudour's, Penngrove	SON	RL	

Observations (continued from page 4)

✓ Canada Warbler	1	9/2	Owl Canyon	SON	DN		
" "	1	9/17	Point Reyes	MAR	RROS trip		
✓ Vesper Sparrow	0	9/18	Hole in the Head	SON	BDP		
✓ Black-throated Sparrow	1	9/2		Sonoma Mtn.		SON KF	County
Record!							
Orchard Oriole	1	9/20	Hole In the Head, Bodega	SON		AW	fem.

Observers:

Dick Ashford, Chris Corben, Ted Eliot, Doug Ellis, Kathy Francone, Lisa Hug, Rick Lebaudour,

Herb McGrew, Richard Merris, Gerry Mugele, Kathy Mugele, Dan Nelson, Mike Parmeter (BDP),
Mike Rippey, Ruth Rudesill, Rusty Scalf (RSc), Rich Stallcup, Alan Wight

Reporting observations:

When reporting your sightings, especially of notable rarities, please be sure to provide all the information: what, how many, when, where, who, and how to contact you for details or to clarify points. Thanks!

RROS Finances

Do be sure to pay your dues.

In last month's issue we reported our (RROS') financial status. As you saw, we are maintaining a reasonable account. Our continuing success is dependent on the dues paid by our members.

Mike Nelligan, Treasurer, asks that you check your mailing label on this issue of Kite Tales.. If your label indicates that you are up-to-date; you have our thanks. If not, please put that check in the mail today: send it to Mike Nelligan, 124 Wikiup Drive, Santa Rosa CA 95403-7700

Pre-meeting Meeting

A reminder: Each month, prior to our regular RROS meeting a group of members meets for dinner at Mary's Pizza Parlor in Rohnert Park. All members and friends are welcome and encouraged to join us. We usually get there about 6, some as early as 5:30.

A Rant of Ravens

President Betty thinks that you should know about Christine Goff. She writes a bird-watching mystery series for Berkley Prime Crime. Her debut novel, A Rant of Ravens features Rachel Stanhope, career-woman turned reluctant bird-watcher, who stumbles across a dead body while "pishing" an elusive bird from the brush. Said Carolyn Hart: "A Rant of Ravens stars a gutsy heroine in fast-paced action with a chill-a-minute finale. The vivid Colorado background and ~~intriguing bird lore will enchant nature lovers as well as mystery fans. A fine feathered debut.~~"

Felipa Errecart Passes

Long time RROS member Felipa Errecart died in Sonoma last September. Though I only met her once, (at Bodega Bay, where else?) her love of birding was already obvious to me through a charming and longstanding correspondence that I had had with her for several years. I miss hearing from her and extend our sympathy to her daughter, Marie Kiser. - Betty Burridge

