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Kite Tales



Redwood Region Ornithological Society

Volume 36 Number I

September 2001

Coming Attractions

September 13th, Thursday, 5:30 PM - General Meeting/Fall Potluck
Doran Beach at Bodega Harbor

This year we're again using a new location. We'll use the picnic tables at the third parking lot on the left. (Without further elaboration, Program Chair Ted assured *Kite Tales* that this is the location adjacent to the most desirable restroom facilities.) This is the usual RROS potluck: bring something yummy to share, your own plate, utensils and a serving spoon.

Normal entrance fees apply. Parking fees are \$3.00 per vehicle except for those members who already have an Annual Day Use, Golden Years or Access Pass.

The business meeting will follow supper. Anyone who wishes can of course go out early and bird. Perhaps a group would be interested in doing a bit of owling on Salmon Creek Road afterward.

September 20th, Thursday - 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

September 22nd, Saturday at 7:30 AM - Field Trip to Point Reyes National Seashore

Our traditional trip to this wonderful birding spot. Meet at 7:30 AM at the Petaluma Park-and-Ride (located at Highway 101 and Lakeville Highway just west of Highway 101) for carpooling. We will be searching the usual spots for fall migrants and vagrants. Bring binoculars, spotting scopes, field guides, lunch, water, and warm clothes. Leader is Alan Wight. Call Alan at 763-8572 (weekdays 7-9 pm or weekends any time) if you have any questions.

September 25th, Tuesday - 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@mugele.com NOTE new Email address

October 11th, Thursday, 7:30 PM - General Meeting

Administration Building, Laguna Waste Water Treatment Plant - 4300 Llano Road, Santa Rosa

Our program will be Ken Wilson on the Galapagos Islands and Peru.

October 20th, Saturday at 8:00 AM - 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, spotting scopes, field guides, lunch, water, and warm clothes. Leader is Alan Wight. Call Alan at 763-8572 (weekdays 7-9 pm or weekends any time) if you have any questions.

Field Trip Report

**Pine Flat Road
May 19th, 2001**

Eleven of us enjoyed a nice day of birds and other creatures. Highlights were a handful of Purple Martins, two Yellow and one Yellow-rumped Warblers near Pine Flat, and a good showing of sparrows, including a Lark Sparrow on a nest. The field trip participants were Linda Allen, Betty Groce, Richard Hurley, Gloria Markowitz, Bertha Rains, Bob Rains, Don Reinberg, Ron Robertson, Ruth Rudesill, Carole Sunlight, and Alan Wight.

Birds observed: Mallard, Turkey Vulture, White-tailed Kite, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Wild Turkey, California Quail, Mountain Quail, Band-tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Acorn Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Western Wood-Pewee, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Purple Martin, Violet-green Swallow, Steller's Jay, Western Scrub Jay, Common Raven, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Oak Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Bewick's Wren, House Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Western Bluebird, American Robin, Wrentit, California Thrasher, European Starling, Cassin's Vireo, Hutton's Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Spotted Towhee, California Towhee, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Sage Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Western Meadowlark, Purple Finch, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch.

Butterflies observed: Propertius Duskywing, Mournful Duskywing, Columbian Skipper, Farmer, Western Tiger Swallowtail, Pale Swallowtail, Spring White, Sara Orangetip, Orange Sulphur, Sylvan Hairstreak, Brown Elfin, Spring Azure, Acmon Blue, California Tortoiseshell, Mourning Cloak, Painted Lady, Buckeye, Mylitta Crescent, Northern Checkerspot, Variable Checkerspot, California Sister, California Ringlet, Monarch.

Dragonflies/Damselflies observed: Vivid Dancer, Bluet sp., Western Forktail, Common Whitetail, Twelve-spotted Skimmer, Flame Skimmer, Cardinal Meadowhawk, Common Green Darner.

~ Alan Wight

Late News**Common Greenshank at Mad River**

August 27th, Ken Irwin found a Common Greenshank beside the Mad River, at the end of Hiller Road near McKinleyville in Humboldt County. The bird was later seen by Tom Leskiw and Sean McAllister and the sighting was confirmed by Ron LeValley. Originally found at about 1:15 it was observed until 4:00 PM and was refound on the morning of the 28th and was seen at least until 11:40 AM.

It is associating with Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs.

Barbara Gumtow Passes

By Betty Burrige

I am very sorry to report the death of Barbara Gumtow, our faithful Social Chairman and longtime RROS member.

Her close friend, Avis Anderson, who had been staying with her since June, and Barbara's 3 daughters were with her at home in Sebastopol when she died Monday, August 27th.

Barbara, always kind and sweet, worked for many years quietly behind the scenes arranging our social events.

An excellent birder with a good sense of humor, she and Avis traveled extensively on many wonderful birding trips.

At her request, memorial donations should be sent to Living Word Lutheran Church, 901 Ely Blvd. South, Petaluma 94952.



Christmas Count Planning

Your birding expertise is required for RROS' own Santa Rosa Christmas Count. Mark it on your calendar now: December 16th 2001. You can always celebrate Beethoven's birthday at the compilation supper; so that cannot be considered an acceptable excuse for missing this important event.

Our new compilers, Ted Eliot and Bob Evans will be contacting counters soon. Plan on it.

Kite Tales will be publishing the dates of other local counts in the next couple issues.

RROS Birders in Honduras

In April, RROS members, Dennis Beall, Pamela Conley, Linda Petrulias and friend, Ann Shadwick, returned from a two week birding trip in Honduras. The party based the trip at the Lodge at Pico Bonito National Park near La Ceiba. They spent six days in the Mosquitia up the Rio Platano with the Peche and Miskitia Indians. Their guide, Robert Gallardo, is a leading naturalist in Honduras. This was the first organized birding venture into the Rio Platano Biosphere Preserve, the largest virgin lowland rain forest in Central America. 270 species were observed, recording nineteen new species for the Biosphere, and a new bird for Honduras, a South Polar Skua. With a brief stop at Lancetilla Gardens in Tela, the last leg of the trip was spent in Copan Ruinas and environs, where the group found four new species for that area. A few highlights were Great Currasow, Green Ibis, Blue Dacnis, Keel-billed Motmot, four species of manakins, Pam's favorites, and numerous Sungrebes.

Central Coast Pelagic

The Morro Coast Audubon Society is sponsoring an all day pelagic trip out of Morro Bay on Sunday, Sept 23, 7:30am~3:30pm led by the eminently qualified duo of Brad Schram and Tom Edell.

Price for the trip is \$40. Quite a bargain these days. But the trip is limited to 40 so act now:

Send your check to:

MCAS

PO Box 160 Morro Bay, CA 93443

Questions can be directed to Mike Stiles
mstiles@calpoly.edu

Birdy Trivia Corner

Steller's Jay, Steller's Eider, Steller's Sea Eagle, and non avian Steller's Sea Lion may all be stellar critters but why are they Steller?

They are all species named after Georg Wilhelm Steller. He is the naturalist and explorer who explored Siberia, Kamchatka and Alaska on Vitua Bering's 1737-1744 Kamchatka expedition. It was Steller who realized Bering's ship had actually reached islands off America in 1741, when the ship's hunter shot a jay that was blue on Kayak Island. Steller recognized the bird as quite similar to one he'd read reports about from America. This became the type specimen for the species that bears his name.

Parrots Now Officially Californian

Maybe you'll want to mark July 31st as a noteworthy date on your calendars: it was on that date this year that the California Bird Records Committee officially added Red-crowned Parrot to the California state list as an Introduced species.

On your copies of the state list, between the Pigeons/Dove and Cuckoos/Roadrunners/Anis insert the following:

PARROTS (Family Psittacidae)

Red-crowned Parrot, *Amazona viridigenalis*

The major California populations of the species lie in the San Gabriel Valley of Los Angeles County, with smaller but still significant populations in urban central Orange Co., the northern San Fernando Valley LA, and portions of Western San Diego and Western San Bernardino Counties.

Kimball Garrett reports that the CBRC will probably look at additional non-native species over the next couple of years.

Observations

<u>Species</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Black-footed Albatross	212	7/27	Bodega Canyon	MAR	DN	
White-capped Albatross	1	7/27	Bodega Canyon	MAR	DN	Salvin's, 2nd for NA
Northern Fulmar	5	7/27	Bodega Canyon	MAR	DN	
Pink-footed Shearwater	760	7/27	Bodega Canyon	MAR	DN	
Sooty Shearwater	5K	7/27	en route Bodega Canyon	MAR	DN	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	3	7/27	Bodega Canyon	MAR	DN	
Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel	6	7/27	Bodega Canyon	MAR	DN	
Least Bittern	3+	Sumer	Lake County State Park	LAK	JW, Mob	nested?
Cattle Egret	12	7/18	High School Rd.	SON	LT	
White-faced Ibis	10	5/11	Russian Rvr, Chalk Hill	SON	DN, EH	Southbound
" " "	15	5/20	Doran Pond	SON		
" " "	220!	5/22	N of Point Reyes Station	MAR	DWi	
Blue-winged Teal	2+	5/12	Shollenberger Park	SON	DN, CS	nesting
Bald Eagle	4	Spring	Lake Sonoma	SON	DR, DN	nest, 2 fledglings
" "	1	6/5	Laguna de SR @ Hwy 12	SON	GT	ad.
Northern Goshawk	1	5/27	near Summit Springs	MEN	JW	
Golden Eagle	1	6/12	Annadel State Park	SON	JL	ad.
Common Greenshank	1	8/27	Mad River	HUM	KI, SM, TL	1st state record
Whimbrel	1	8/5	Clear Lake State Park	LAK	JW, DW	2nd cnty record
Red Knot	30	5/6	Doran Park	SON	JB, RM	alt plumage
" "	2	8/19	Bodega Harbor	SON	AW	juv.
Baird's Sandpiper	1	8/5	Salmon Crk mouth	SON	DS	
Pectoral Sandpiper	1	8/11	Carmody Road Pond	SON	DN	ad.
Short-billed Dowitcher	2	7/25	Bridgehaven, Russian Rvr	SON	LP	alt plumage
Wilson's Phalarope	6	5/31	Shollenberger Park	SON	AW	3 pair
Red-necked Phalarope	3	8/21	Doran Pond	SON	DH, KM	
Red Phalarope	2	5/9	Russian River Mouth	SON	JK, KW, IM	pair
South Polar Skua	1	7/27	Bodega Canyon	MAR	DN	
Pomarine Jaeger	5	7/27	Bodega Canyon	MAR	DN	
Parasitic Jaeger	24	7/27	Bodega Canyon	MAR	DN	
Long-tailed Jaeger	36	7/27	Bodega Canyon	MAR	DN	
Sabine's Gull	83	7/27	Bodega Canyon	MAR	DN	
Black-legged Kittiwake	2	5/9	Russian River Mouth	SON	JK, KW, IM	
Caspian Tern	3	7/18	Jenner	SON	LP	pair tending juv.
Elegant Tern	6	8/21	Spud Point , Bodega	SON	DH, KM	
Common Tern	1	8/5	Off Pinnacle Gulch	SON	DS	
Black Skimmer	1	8/26	White Slough, Vallejo	SOL	AW	
Flammulated Owl	1	5/26-7	North of Snow Mountain	MEN	DW, JW	
Purple Martin	2	6/8	top of Pine Flat Rd	SON	BB	juv.
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	5/7	Adobe Canyon Rd,	SON	IM	
" " "	1	6/16	Silvia Dr, Cazadero	SON	DB, PC	inside studio!
American Dipper	1	6/9	lower Austin Creek	SON	DB, PC	foraging in creek
Sage Thrasher	1	6/10	Glass Beach , Ft. Bragg	MEN	JW	
Phainopepla	1	5/8	Black Diamond Mines Rd	CON	PL	
Yellow-breasted Chat	1	6/28	Steelhead Park, Russian R.	SON	DC	

more observations -->

Observations - continued

<u>Species</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	5/26	Sea Ranch, visiting feeder	SON	CL, BB, MN, DHa	male
" "	1	6/13	Silvia Dr. Cazadero feeder	SON	DB, PC	male
" "	1	6/14	Ponderosa Dr. Santa Rosa	SON	LD, JF	
" "	1	7/15	Forestville	SON	GTp	
" "	1	July	Sebastopol	SON	SH	
" "	1	Sumer	Santa Rosa	SON	J&JT	
Great-tailed Grackle	1	5/31	Shollenberger Park	SON	AW	male
" "	4	Sumer	Rooster Run GC	Petaluma	SON	DN, RL, AW, Mob pair w/ young
Hooded Oriole	1	5/14	Kunde Vineyd, Kenwood	SON	DN	1st yr male
Lawrence's Goldfinch	1	8/5	Owl Canyon	SON	DS	male

Observers: Dennis Beall, Julie Blumenthal, Betty Burrridge, Dennis Cavallo, Christine Cohen, Pam Conley, Liz Donath, John Ferrari, Emily Heaton, Deyea Harper, Diane Hichwa (DHa), Susan Hirsch, Ken Irwin, John Kelly, Carter Lake, Rick Lebaudour, Tom Leskiw, Peter Leveque, John Luellen, Roger Marlowe, Sean McAllister, Ian Morrison, Kathy Mugele, Mike Nelligan, Dan Nelson, Linda Petrulias, Dave Rawle, Doug Shaw, Claire Shurvinton, Laurence Taylor, Jim & Jean Tonascia, Gwendolyn Toney, Georgia Tripp (GTp), Jerry White, Alan Wight, Dianne Williams (DWi), Ken Wilson, Giel Witt, Chris Wood, Dave Woodward

**Redwood Region Ornithological Society - Report of Finances
2000 - 2001**

Beginning bank balance, 1 July 2000..... \$2,121 ¹

Receipts:

Dues.....	\$ 947
Book Sales.....	77
Interest on Savings.....	65
Donations.....	890 ²
Field Card Sales and misc.	44
Total receipts for year.....	\$2,023

Disbursements:

Kite Tales newsletter.....	\$ 580
Book sales proceeds to heirs of co-author.....	39
Guest Speakers.....	150
Rent, Potluck meetings.....	47
Production costs <i>Birds of Sonoma County</i>	1,030
less reimbursement from author.....	(943)
Total disbursements for year.....	-\$903

Excess receipts over disbursements..... \$1,120

Ending bank balance, 30 June 2001.....\$3,241 ^{1,2}

1) Includes a \$1,250.00 certificate of deposit

2) Includes a \$521 and \$365 Arnold and Ellis memorial funds

~Mike Nelligan, Treasurer

Redwood Region Ornithological Society was organized in 1962 "to encourage the study and conservation of birds, other wildlife, and their natural habitat." Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month, September through May. Regular general meetings (October through April) are held at 7:30 PM at the Laguna Waste Water Treatment Plant, 4300 Llano Road, Santa Rosa, California. Dues are \$15 per family, \$8 per individual, or \$3 per student for one year membership. Send dues to the treasurer shown below.

2001 - 2002 Officers:

President: Ken Wilson, 8 Pine Tree Circle., Cotati, CA 94931 707 795-7547
E-Mail: talontours@yahoo.com

Vice President: Ted Eliot, 5850 Grove St., Sonoma CA 95476-6095 707 935-3410
E-Mail: patted@sonic.net

Secretary: Linda Allen

Treasurer: Betty Burrige, 1653 Arroyo Sierra Way, Santa Rosa CA 95405 707 527-0225
E-Mail: bandm@monitor.net

2001 - 2002 Chairs:

Field Trips: Alan Wight, 19 Wooddale Dr., Petaluma CA 94952 707 763-8572
E-Mail: shwand@sonic.net

Observations: Ned Wynn, 129-B Powell Ave., Healdsburg CA 95448-3413 707 431-8412
E-Mail: ekwynn@pon.net

Social:

Christmas Count: Ted Eliot, 5850 Grove St., Sonoma CA 95476-6095 707 935-3410
Bob Evans 707 823-0609

Kite Tales: Gerry Mugele, PO Box 813, Glen Ellen, Ca 95442-0813 707 938-2134
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