



# Kite Tales

Volume 37 Number 4

December 2002

## Coming Attractions

### **December 12<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, 7:30 pm - General Meeting**

Administration Building, Laguna Waste Water Treatment Plant, 4300 Llano Rd, Santa Rosa  
Please attend meeting as we will discuss the Christmas Count and may have a mystery program.

### **December 15th, Sunday, Santa Rosa Christmas Count -All Day**

Co-compilers Ted Eliot and Bob Evans will be contacting those have counted in the past. The potluck dinner will be at the Wikiup Clubhouse, hosted by the Rains. Potluck starts at 6:30 pm. Please contact Ted or Bob if you can participate (even a half day.)

### **January 25, Saturday, 7:30am -Field Trip to Lake Berryessa, Napa County**

Meet north of Santa Rosa at the park-and-ride on River Road just west of US101. Meeting time is 7:30 am. We will carpool from here to Lake Berryessa, where we'll explore the lake and surrounding woodlands starting at the north end. If time allows, we'll end up at Monticello Dam. Winter possibilities for this area include Bald Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Lewis's Woodpecker, Canyon Wren, and Yellow-billed Magpie, all of which were seen and/or heard on our January 2001 field trip. Bring binoculars, 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. Heavy rain cancels.

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Welcome to our new members: **Andrew Orahoske and Suzie Bulger.**

**Willow Creek Canyon Field Trip Report  
November 16, 2002**

by Alan Wight

The area near Bridgehaven Pond had quite a few birds, including an immature Ferruginous Hawk, at least two Merlins, two Spotted Sandpipers moving up the Russian River, and a Palm Warbler which was foraging in the vegetation next to the pond. While in Willow Creek Canyon, the highlights were two Sharp-shinned Hawks and a Townsend's Warbler mixed in with a large flock of Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. Late in the day, a few of us drove down to Bodega Harbor and stopped at the Doran Park jetty, where we saw a Long-tailed Duck flying over in a small flock of Surf Scoters as well as a Red Phalarope, a Red-necked Grebe, and a White-winged Scoter. The field trip participants were Ken Ackerman, Linda Allen, Carol Brant, Mel Davison, Nancy Davison, Lew Edmondson, Marilyn Edmondson, Louise Johnston, Jack Jones, Marilyn Jones, Gloria Markowitz, John Mee, Ann Stone, Carole Sunlight, and Alan Wight.

**Birds observed:** Red-throated Loon, Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Brown Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Brandt's Cormorant, Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Canada Goose, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, American Wigeon, Long-tailed Duck, Black Scoter, Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, California Quail, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Killdeer, American Avocet, Willet, Spotted Sandpiper, Black Turnstone, Sanderling, Long-billed Dowitcher, Red Phalarope, Heermann's Gull, Mew Gull, California Gull, Western Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Belted Kingfisher, Acorn Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Steller's Jay, Western Scrub-Jay, Common Raven, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Bewick's Wren, Winter Wren, Marsh Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, Wrentit, American Pipit, European Starling, Hutton's Vireo, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Palm Warbler, Spotted Towhee, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, House Sparrow.

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**Jim Tonascia** long time RROS member, ardent birder, and gentleman died November 9 at home. Our sympathy goes out to his wife, Jean, and the rest of his family.

**BIRDS NAMED AFTER PEOPLE** By Michael F. Nelligan

This is the second of a series of articles about people for whom some of our most common birds are named. If you missed the first article, it appeared in the September 2002 issue of Kite Tales. Copies are available from the RROS Treasurer.

The following information is taken from two publications: Words for Birds, A Lexicon of North American Birds with Biographical Notes by Edward Gruson, and The Dictionary of American Birds by Earnest A. Choate. Names are presented in alphabetical order and do not include all names included in the above publications.

**BACHMAN, DR. JOHN (1790-1874)**

Dr. Bachman was a minister, not an ornithologist. However, he had two daughters that married Audubon's sons. Because of the close family relationship Audubon named the warbler Bachman discovered after him as well as the Black Oystercatcher and a sparrow. Bachman's Warbler is now thought to be extinct although it still appears in field guides.

**BAIRD, SPENCER FULLERTON (1823-1887)**

An ornithologist of significant stature, Baird was secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, first United States Fish Commissioner, and organizer of the zoological work of The Pacific Railroad Surveys. Author of several works on birds, he described and named several genera and many species of birds. This was done in the ninth volume of Pacific Railroad Reports. Coues is quoted as saying of the ninth volume, "This volume, published in 1858, represents the most important and decided single step ever taken in North American ornithology in all that related to the technicalities of the science. It effected a revolution in classification and nomenclature, nearly all the names of our birds being changed in accordance with more modern usages in generic and specific determinations".

As a boy of 17 Baird wrote to Audubon about a new bird he had discovered, the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. Audubon answered, offering to name it. So started a friendship that lasted for the rest of Audubon's career. Baird's marriage to the daughter of the Inspector General of the Army enabled him to play an important role in shaping the discovery of the natural history of the American West. It was through Baird's influence that the surgeons sent to army posts in the west, and those that accompanied the various railroad and boundary surveys were also enthusiastic ornithologists and natural historians who were expected to collect and send back specimens.

**BARROW, SIR JOHN (1764-1848)**

An extraordinary Englishman, Barrow was able to accept an invitation from a friend to join a whaling trip to the North Atlantic and Greenland. It was during this time that he developed a passion for arctic exploration for which he was so distinguished throughout the rest of his life. He, more than any other person not actually taking part in the operations, contributed most to the discoveries in the Arctic during the nineteenth century. We find his name in Point Barrow and in Barrow's Straits. He was a founder of the Royal Geographical Society. Swainson named Barrow's Goldeneye for him, but the scientific name was preempted while the popular name has been retained.

## OBSERVATIONS

Species	Date	Location	Co.	#	Observers	Notes
✓ Black-footed Albatross	10/27/02	Offshore Sonoma Co	SON	12+	DN, MOA	
✓ Black-vented Shearwater	10/27/02	Offshore Sonoma Co	SON	2	RAR, BGr	
✓ Sooty Shearwater	10/27/02	Offshore Sonoma Co	SON	12+	DN, MOA	
✓ Buller's Shearwater	10/27/02	Offshore Sonoma Co	SON	25+	DN, MOA	
✓ Pink-footed Shearwater	10/27/02	Offshore Sonoma Co	SON	65+	DN, MOA	
✓ Northern Fulmar	10/27/02	Bodega Canyon	SON	50+	BDP, DN, MOA	4 light phase
✓ Ashy-Storm-petrel	10/27/02	Offshore Sonoma Co	SON	2	DN, RAR, MOA	
✓ American Bittern	11/13/02	Hudemann Slough	SON	1	BDP	
✓ Ferruginous Hawk	11/16/02	Bridgehaven	SON	1	AW	
✓ Peregrine Falcon	10/30/02	Bodega Bay area	SON	1	BDP, DHo	Ad fundrnus
✓ Peregrine Falcon	November	D St in Petaluma	SON	1	DN	
✓ Merlin	11/12/02	Hole in the Head	SON	1	BDP, DHo	
✓ Black Rail	11/12/02	Schollenberger Park	SON	2	DN	Heard only
✓ Tundra Swan	11/1/02	Abbotts Lagoon	MRN	2	Ken Ackerman	
✓ Canada Goose	11/19/02	SSU duck pond	SON	5	Becky Olsen	"Cackling" form
✓ Gr. White-fronted Goose	10/7/02	Penngrove	SON	flock	RLe	
✓ Gr. White-fronted Goose	11/3/02	Hwy 1 near Salmon Creek	SON	12	Lang Stevenson	
✓ Eurasian Wigeon	10/27/02	Bodega Harbor	SON	1	DN, MOA	male
✓ Blue-winged Teal	11/9-13/02	Schollenberger Park	SON	12	BDP, KGu, DN	
✓ Barrow's Goldeneye	11/14/02	Port Sonoma	SON	6	DN	
✓ Long-tailed Duck	11/6/02	Napa Marshes	MRN?	1	Matthew Keller	Pond 1A
✓ Long-tailed Duck	11/16/02	Bodega Head	SON	1	AW	
✓ Common Merganser	11/13/02	Ramal Road Pond	SON	4 f	BDP	
✓ Long-billed Curlew	11/12/02	Schollenberger Park	SON	38	DN	
✓ Rock Sandpiper	11/8-11/02	Bodega Harbor jetty	SON	1	Lisa Hug; KGu	
✓ Surfbird	11/8/02	Bodega Harbor jetty	SON	100	Lisa Hug	Large #s
✓ Black Oystercatcher	11/8/02	Bodega Harbor jetty	SON	50	Lisa Hug	Large #s
✓ Red Phalarope	11/10/02	Doran Park pond	SON	2	KGu	
✓ Red Phalarope	11/16/02	Near Bodega Harbor jetty	SON	1	AW	
✓ American Golden - plover	10/19/02	SE corner of Bodega Harbor	SON	1	BDP, DN	
✓ Pacific Golden-plover	11/2-3/02	Schollenberger Park	SON	1	BD, Ron Storey	
✓ Parasitic Jaeger	10/27/02	Off shore Sonoma Co	SON	6	DN, MOA	
✓ Pomarine Jaeger	10/27/02	Offshore Sonoma Co	SON	15	BDP, DN, mob	Dark phase
✓ Cassin's Auklet	10/27/02	Offshore Sonoma Co	SON	125	MOA	
✓ Rhinoceros Auklet	10/27/02	Offshore Sonoma Co	SON	36	DN, MOA	
✓ Short-eared Owl	11/13/02	Doran Park	SON	1	Dennis Cavallo	
✓ Burrowing Owl	11/14/02	Schollenberger Park	SON	1	BD	1 <sup>st</sup> in sev. years
✓ Poorwill	11/12/02	Sonoma Mountain	SON	1	TE	yard
✓ Blue Grouse	10/20 - 11/06/02	Bouverie Audubon Preserve Sonoma Valley	SON	1-4	Rebecca Anderson-Jones, Calvin Jones	Unusual southern location
✓ Tropical Kingbird	10/12/02	Bodega Harbour	SON	1	BBu	
✓ Tropical Kingbird	11/3/02	Hwy 1 near Tides	SON	1	BBu	
✓ Tropical Kingbird	11/4-5/02	Schollenberger Park	SON	1	Marge Plant, George Finger, BD, Ron Storey	

✓ Canyon Wren	11/19/02	Mt St Helena	NAP	2	BDP	
✓ American Redstart	10/27/02	Campbell Cove	SON	1	Jim White	immature
✓ Bl-thr Gray Warbler	10/22/02	Austin Creek	SON	1	Dennis Beall, Pam Conley	
✓ Prairie Warbler	10/26/02	Bodega Marine Lab	SON	1	Denise Wight	
✓ Palm Warbler	10/26/02	Westside Park	SON	1	Denise Wight	
✓ Palm Warbler	11/16/02	Bridgehaven	SON	1	AW	
✓ Nashville Warbler	9/27/02	Bodega Bay	SON	1	Nancy Konzett	
✓ Orange-cr Warbler	10/30/02	Bodega Bay area	SON	1	BDP, DHo	gray headed race
✓ Common Yellowthroat	10/18/02	Austin Creek	SON	1	Pam Conley	
✓ Fox Sparrow	11/19/02	Mt St Helena	NAP	1	BDP	Gray headed
✓ Swamp Sparrow	11/12/02	Hole in the Head	SON	1	BDP, DHo	
✓ White-throated Sparrow	10/30/02	Bodega Marine Lab entrance	SON	1	BDP, DHo	
White-throated Sparrow	11/16/02	Santa Rosa	SON	1	Glo Wellman	yard

**Observers:** Betty Burridge, Bob Dyer, Ted Eliot, Betty Groce, Kevin Guse, David Hoffmann, Rick Lebadaur, Dan Nelson, BD Mike Parmeter, Ruth Rudesill, Alan Wight MOA-Mollymawk Ocean Adventures

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### Redwood Region Ornithological Society 2002 – 2003 Officers

#### Board of Directors

President	Ted Eliot	5850 Grove Street Sonoma CA 95476	<a href="mailto:patted@sonic.net">patted@sonic.net</a> 935-3410
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#### Committee Chairs

Field trips	Alan Wight		<a href="mailto:shwand@sonic.net">shwand@sonic.net</a> 763-8572
Observations	Ned Wynn	129-B Powell Ave Healdsburg CA 95448	<a href="mailto:ekwynn@pon.net">ekwynn@pon.net</a> 431-8412
Christmas Count	Ted Eliot	5850 Grove St Sonoma CA 95476	<a href="mailto:patted@sonic.net">patted@sonic.net</a> 935-3410
	Bob Evans		823-0609
Kite Tales	Ruth Rudesill	PO Box 371 Kenwood CA 95452	<a href="mailto:rar@pcweb.net">rar@pcweb.net</a> 833-6026

#### Kite Tales Deadlines

**December 20th Observations Deadline**  
Submit sightings to Ned Wynn via e-mail  
Or call between 8 am and 8 pm

#### December 24th Submissions Deadline

Send all announcements, articles, trivia, letters, etc. to  
Ruth Rudesill via email, mail, or

Thank you to all who contributed for this issue.

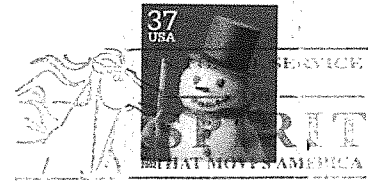
**HAPPY HOLIDAYS and HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

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 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 RROS 1653 Arroyo Sierra Way Santa Rosa CA 95405.

**CALENDAR**

December 12 <sup>th</sup>	General Meeting 7:30 pm
December 15 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Bird Count
December 20 <sup>th</sup>	Observations Deadline
December 24 <sup>th</sup>	Kite Tales Deadline
January 25 <sup>th</sup>	Field Trip to Lake Berryessa

**Kite Tales**  
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