



# Kite Tales

Volume 37 Number V

January 2003

*Happy New Year!*

## Coming Attractions

**January 9, Thursday, 7:30 pm – General Meeting at Administration Building,  
Laguna Waste Water Treatment Plant – 4300 Llano Road, Santa Rosa**

**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.

**February Field Trip – to be announced in next Kite Tales**

**Results of the Santa Rosa Christmas Count - December 15, 2002**

Thank you to compilers Ted Eliot and Bob Evans, Bob and Bertha Rains for the use of the Wikiup Clubhouse (and the candles during the blackout!) and to all who braved the rain to complete our count. The total was 139 species and 4 during count week. Notable birds or numbers are highlighted. Note the American Robin vs. Starling numbers – more robins than starlings!

**Pacific Loon** – 1, **Pied-billed Grebe** – 103, **Eared Grebe** – 8, **Western Grebe** – 4, **Double-crested Cormorant** – 175, **American Bittern** – 1, **Great Blue Heron** – 19, **Great Egret** – 104, **Snowy Egret** – 84, **Cattle Egret** – 69, **Green Heron** – 3, **Black-crowned Night-Heron** – 47, **Turkey Vulture** – 226, **Canada Goose** – 488, **(Incl. 11 Cackling Geese)** **Wood Duck** – 1, **Gadwall** – 13, **Duck, sp.** – 5, **Osprey** – 2, **White-tailed Kite** – 15, **Northern Harrier** – 13, **Sharp-shinned Hawk** – 2, **Cooper's Hawk** – 4, **Accipiter sp.** – 3, **Red-shouldered Hawk** – 46, **Red-tailed Hawk** – 55, **Ferruginous Hawk** – 1, **Golden Eagle** – 1, **American Kestrel** – 41, **Merlin** – 5, **Ring-necked Pheasant** – 2, **Wild Turkey** – 161, **California Quail** – 195, **Virginia Rail** – 2, **Sora** – 2, **Common Moorhen** – 2, **American Coot** – 364, **Killdeer** – 211, **Black-necked Stilt** – 10, **Greater Yellowlegs** – 24, **Spotted Sandpiper** – 2, **peep sp.** – 50, **Long-billed Curlew** – 13 (CW), **Least Sandpiper** – 35, **Long-billed Dowitcher** – 5, **Wilson's Snipe** – 4, **Eurasian Wigeon** – 1, **American Wigeon** – 624, **Mallard** – 1597, **Blue-winged Teal** – 1, **Cinnamon Teal** – 2 (CW), **Northern Shoveler** – 232, **Northern Pintail** – 35, **Green-winged Teal** – 4, **Canvasback** – 21, **Ring-necked Duck** – 71, **Greater Scaup** – 2, **Scaup sp.** – 4, **Bufflehead** – 144, **Common Goldeneye** – 30, **Hooded Merganser** – 15, **Common Merganser** – 40, **Ruddy Duck** – 385, **Mew Gull** – 372, **Bonaparte's Gull** – 1, **Ring-billed Gull** – 744, **California Gull** – 1584, **Herring Gull** – 171, **Western Gull** – 1, **Glaucous-winged Gull** – 110, **Gull, sp.** – 4081, **Rock Dove** – 329, **Band-tailed Pigeon** – 17, **Mourning Dove** – 182, **Barn Owl** – 1 (CW), **Western Screech-Owl** – 3, **Great Horned Owl** – 7, **Northern Pygmy-Owl** – 1, **Spotted Owl** – 2, **Short-eared Owl** – 1, **Northern Saw-whet Owl** – 1, **Anna's Hummingbird** – 106, **Belted Kingfisher** – 21, **Acorn Woodpecker** – 121, **Red-breasted Sapsucker** – 11, **Nuttall's Woodpecker** – 66, **Downy Woodpecker** – 8, **Hairy Woodpecker** – 4, **Red-shafted Flicker** – 128, **Flicker, sp.** – 5, **Pileated Woodpecker** – 4, **Black Phoebe** – 121, **Say's Phoebe** – 16, **Loggerhead Shrike** – 2, **Hutton's Vireo** – 22, **Steller's Jay** – 65, **Western Scrub-Jay** – 289, **American Crow** – 1333, **Common Raven** – 71, **Horned Lark** – 30, **Violet-green Swallow** – 94, **Barn Swallow** – 1, **Bushtit** – 618, **Chestnut-backed Chickadee** – 223, **Oak Titmouse** – 139, **White-breasted Nuthatch** – 25, **Brown Creeper** – 17, **Bewick's Wren** – 19, **House Wren** – 1, **Winter Wren** – 13, **Marsh Wren** – 6, **Golden-crowned Kinglet** – 39, **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** – 227, **Western Bluebird** – 115, **Hermit Thrush** – 35, **American Robin** – 4982, **Varied Thrush** – 51, **Wrentit** – 7, **Northern Mockingbird** – 80, **California Thrasher** – 1 (CW), **European Starling** – 4825, **American Pipit** – 41, **Cedar Waxwing** – 165, **Orange-crowned Warbler** – 1, **Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle)** – 16, **Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon)** – 60, **Yellow-rumped Warbler, sp.** – 117,

**Christmas count species list cont.**

Townsend's Warbler – 20, **Hermit Warbler – 2**, **Western Tanager – 1**,  
 Spotted Towhee – 84, California Towhee – 427, Rufous-crowned Sparrow – 2,  
 Lark Sparrow – 1, Savannah Sparrow – 65, Fox Sparrow – 52, Song Sparrow – 202,  
 Lincoln's Sparrow – 20, **White-throated Sparrow – 10**, White-crowned Sparrow – 452,  
 Golden-crowned Sparrow – 688, Sparrow, sp. – 5, Dark-eyed Junco – 788,  
 Red-winged Blackbird – 1212, **Tricolored Blackbird – 12**, Western Meadowlark – 387,  
 Brewer's Blackbird – 2308, **Brown-headed Cowbird – 258**, Blackbird, sp. – 533,  
 Purple Finch – 27, House Finch – 523, Lesser Goldfinch – 553, American Goldfinch – 75,  
 House Sparrow - 136

**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
Vice President	Eric Lichtwardt		<a href="mailto:bufo@pacbell.net">bufo@pacbell.net</a>
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Treasurer	Betty Burrige	1653 Arroyo Sierra Way Santa Rosa CA 95405	<a href="mailto:bandm@monitor.net">bandm@monitor.net</a> 527-0225

**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 Street Sonoma CA 95476	<a href="mailto:patted@pon.net">patted@pon.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**

January 20<sup>th</sup> Observations Deadline  
 Submit sightings to New Wynn  
 via email or call between 8 am and 8 pm

January 24<sup>th</sup> Submission Deadline  
 Submit all announcements, articles,  
 trivia, letters, etc. to Ruth Rudesill  
 via email, mail or phone call

**Thank you to all contributed to this issue – keep the submissions coming!**

Observations

Species	Date	Location	Co	#	Observers	Notes
✓ Fork-tailed Storm-petrel	12/16/02	Duncans Landing	SON	1	KWi	
✓ Pacific Loon	12/23/02	Hudemann Skough	SON	2	TE	
✓ American Bittern	11/13/02	Hudemann Slough	SON	1	BDP	
✓ Cattle Egret	12/15/02	Delta Pond	SON	4	BDP	
Common Merganser	11/13/02	Ramal Road	SON	4	BAP	females
✓ Hooded Merganser	12/4-11/02	Ramal Road	SON	5-12	RLe, Ace, BDP	
Eurasian Wigeon	12/15/02	Delta Pond	SON	1	BDP	male
Eurasian Wigeon	12/29/02	Doran Pond	SON	1	DAsh	
✓ Blue-winged Teal	11/13/02 11/28/02	Schollenberger Park	SON	12 5	BDP	7m 5 f 5m
✓ Redhead	12/23/02	Viansa Winery	SON	4	TE	
Golden Eagle	12/23/02	Buchli Rd	NAP	1	TE	
✓ Ferruginous Hawk	12/23/02	Viansa Winery	SON	1	TE	Dark adult
✓ Ferruginous Hawk	12/29/02	Walker Rd	SON	1	DAsh	Dark morph
✓ Ferruginous Hawk	12/29/02	ridge behind Bodega Harbour	SON	1	DAsh, TMc	
✓ Rough-legged hawk	12/29/02	Over Bodega Harbour	SON	1	RAR, BGr	Inter morph
✓ Rough-legged Hawk	12/10/02 12/23/02	Adobe Road Stage Gulch Rd	SON	1	RAR	Light adult
✓ Merlin	12/23/02	Ramal Road	SON	1	TE	
✓ Merlin	12/29/02	Doran Park area	SON	1	DAsh	
✓ Black Rail	12/29/02	Doran Park	SON	1	RAR, BGr	
Mountain Plover	12/4/02	Robinson Rd	SOL	45+	BDP	
✓ Red Phalarope	12/29/02	Cove next to Tides Wharf	SON	2	WSCBC, mob	
✓ Red-necked Phalarope	12/16/02	Bodega Harbor	SON	13	KWi	
✓ Bonaparte's Gull	12/23/02	Hudemann Slough	SON	8	TE	
Burrowing Owl	12/4/02	Robinson Rd	SOL	1	BDP	
✓ Short-eared Owl	12/4-9/02	Ramal Road	SON	2	RLe ACe	
✓ Short-eared Owl	12/23/02	Hudemann Slough	SON	1	TE	
Varied Thrush	Dec	Oakmont	SON	8	BGr	yard
Canyon Wren	11/19/02	Mt St Helena	NAP	2	BDP	
Western Tanager	12/15/02	River Road Pond	SON	1	AW, David Moring	
Barn Swallow	12/15/02	River Road Pond	SON	1	AW, David Moring	
Barn Swallow	12/23/02	Northgate Skaggs Isl	SON	1	TE	
Wilson's Warbler	11/18/02	Pine Gulch	MRN	1	BDP	
Lapland Longspur	12/3-7/02	Bodega Head	SON	1-2	ELi, DN, BDP, RAR, mob	
Fox Sparrow	11/19/02	Mt St Helena	NAP	1	BDP	Gray headed

Observers: Dick Ashford, Betty Burridge, Anthony Cermack, Ted Eliot, Betty Groce, Rick Lebaduor, Eric Lichtwardt, Tom McCuller, Dan Nelson, BDP-MikeParmeter, Ruth Rudesill, Ken Wilson, Alan Wight,

Movie Review by Ruth Rudesill

### *Rare Birds*

2002- starring William Hurt, Molly Parker, Andy Jones, directed by Sturla Gunnarsson

This film has several strange plot twists – sort of X Files meets the Audubon Society. All kidding aside, the basic plot has William Hurt's character, a gourmet chef in a little tiny town on the coast of Newfoundland finding his restaurant lacking in customers. His wacky neighbor dreams up the idea of carving a decoy of very rare duck, floating it in the bay just outside the restaurant and getting the word out to birders worldwide. The duck species is not real one (to my knowledge- I would have thought they would have picked a Labrador Duck!) This wacky neighbor is also hiding some secret light discovery in a tunnel that the government is after – this subplot was not necessary in the movie. I don't even remember how that is resolved...

The main story revolves around the chef and his personal problems, and guilt over the fake duck in the bay. Of course, business is booming as birders flock see this duck. I won't give away anything else except someone understands birders – one guy's car breaks down in the restaurant parking lot and the chef is worried they won't get it fixed easily, being so remote. The happy birder says "I don't care about the car- I saw the BIRD!"

Ruth's Rating: As a movie – two stars \*\*, As a birder movie – three stars \*\*\*.

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### General Bird News -

The **Laysan Albatross** is back at Point Arena cove in Mendocino County. This bird stays around the small wharf area and flies out to sea and back so if it isn't there, so be patient. Late afternoon is a good time see it fly into the cove.

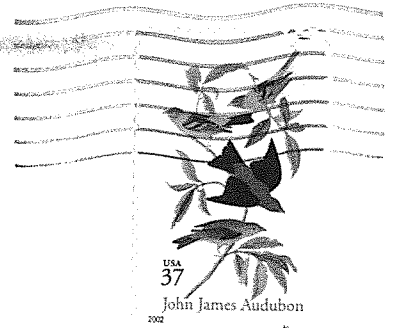
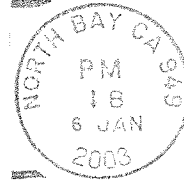
A **Sedge Wren** has been in Half Moon Bay since early December. The bird is on a trail at Half Moon Bay State Beach. To get there: take Hwy 1, take Kelly Road West and go to extreme NW of parking lot. Walk north past a campground and amphitheater to trail with ropes. The bird has been in this area lately near marker "7."

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**

January 9	General Meeting	7:30 pm
January 20	Observations Deadline	
January 24	Kite Tales Deadline	
January 25	Field Trip	7:30 am

**Kite Tales**  
**PO Box 371**  
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