



Kite Tales

Volume 37 Number VII

March 2003

Coming Attractions

March 13, Thursday, 7:30 pm – General Meeting at Administration Building,

Laguna Waste Water Treatment Plant – 4300 Llano Road, Santa Rosa

“Birds of Sonoma County – Prelude to Spring Migration “by Mike Parmeter

Join our own Mike Parmeter as he discusses common spring migrants in Sonoma County along with a slide presentation. Should be great for preparing for Spring 2003 birding!!

March 28-30, Friday-Sunday - Field Trip to Susanville Area for Sage Grouse

We will spend 3 days birding the Susanville area in Lassen County. Our main goal will be to see the Sage Grouse lek at dawn on Saturday. Depending on road conditions, some pre-dawn walking may be required to get to the Sage Grouse lek. The River Inn (530-257-6051) in Susanville is the suggested hotel for this trip. Room rates are in the \$40-\$50 range per night. Some of our group will be driving up Thursday night in order to maximize our time in the area. Bring binoculars, spotting scopes, field guides, food for lunches, and very warm clothing. Leaders are Alan Wight and Rick Lebaudour. If you are planning on going, please call Alan at 763-8572 (weekdays 7-9 pm or weekends any time) as last minute weather reports could cancel the trip, or if you have any questions.

Saturday, April 26, 7:30/9:00 a.m. - Field Trip to Mitchell Canyon, Contra Costa Co.

This beautiful canyon on the slopes of Mt. Diablo is a great place to observe newly-arrived spring migrants. It's a magnet for less common migrating birds such as Hammond's Fly-catcher, Calliope Hummingbird, Nashville Warbler, and Hermit Warbler. Along with the birds come a nice variety of butterflies, reptiles, and wildflowers. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Petaluma Park-and-Ride for carpooling or meet at the Mitchell Canyon parking lot at 9:00 am. This Park -and-Ride is located on Lakeville Highway in Petaluma just west of US101. To get to Mitchell Canyon, take Highway 680 south to Walnut Creek. Take the Ygnacio Valley Road exit east (this exit may only be available going north, you may have to turn around after passing Walnut Creek). Once on Ygnacio Valley Rd, drive east 7.7 miles and turn south on Clayton Rd. Drive one mile and turn right onto Mitchell Canyon Road. Follow this road for 1.6 miles to the end. Bring binoculars, hiking shoes, water, and a lunch. We will walk about three miles at a leisurely pace. Leader is Alan Wight. Please call Alan (weekdays 7-9 pm or weekends any time) at 763-8572 if you plan to meet the group at Mitchell Canyon or if you have any questions.

Welcome new members Ron Storey and Harriet Davidson!

Field Trip Reports

Lake Berryessa Field Trip Report - January 25, 2003

We enjoyed beautiful weather and nice views of the Lake Berryessa area. The bird highlights were two Lewis's Woodpeckers (in Pope Valley), at least five Bald Eagles, two Golden Eagles, a distant Prairie Falcon, two Peregrine Falcons soaring high above the Lake Berryessa dam, two Spotted Sandpipers, and at least 31 Hooded Mergansers. The field trip participants were Ken Ackerman, Jim Clegg, Ted Eliot, Betty Groce, Richard Hurley, Gloria Markowitz, Herb McGrew, Mike Parmeter, Ann Stone, Wayne Tillay, and Alan Wight.

Birds observed: Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Western Grebe, Clark's Grebe, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Green Heron, Greater White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Ring-necked Duck, Scaup sp., Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, White-tailed Kite, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, American Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon, American Coot, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe, California Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Lewis's Woodpecker, Acorn Woodpecker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Western Scrub-Jay, Yellow-billed Magpie, American Crow, Common Raven, Oak Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Canyon Wren, Bewick's Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Western Bluebird, American Robin, Wrentit, Northern Mockingbird, American Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling, Hutton's Vireo, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Savannah Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, Tricolored Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Lesser Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

submitted by Alan Wight

Shollenberger Park and Skaggs Island Field Trip Report - February 22, 2003

In the morning we hiked the loop at Shollenberger Park and observed over a dozen Blue-winged Teal, one male Redhead, an adult Golden Eagle, an early Barn Swallow, a brief glimpse of an American Bittern, a repeatedly calling Black Rail, and one locally unusual Chestnut-backed Chickadee. In the afternoon, Dick Ashford led us around Skaggs Island where we saw numerous White-tailed Kites and Northern Harriers, two Rough-legged Hawks, at least five Golden Eagles, a Prairie Falcon, at least 11 Short-eared Owls flying at once, several newly-arrived Allen's Hummingbirds, and a juvenile intermediate morph Swainson's Hawk. The Swainson's Hawk was first found and identified by Dick in the morning. Our group was able to study it in flight for quite some time. This is one of very few records of Swainson's Hawk in Sonoma County.

Field trip report cont.

The field trip participants were Richard Anderson, Dick Ashford, Betty Burrige, Harriet Davidson, Bob Dyer, Betty Groce, Deyea Harper, Jack Harper, Richard Hurley, Andy Lacasse, Don McCarthy, Dan Noreen, Mike Parmeter, Wendy Peterson, Rhio Reigh, Mary Rooney, Ron Storey, and Alan Wight.

Birds observed: Pied-billed Grebe, Eared Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, American Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Canada Goose, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Canvasback, Redhead, Greater Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, White-tailed Kite, Northern Harrier, Swainson's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Golden Eagle, American Kestrel, Prairie Falcon, Ring-necked Pheasant, Black Rail, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Black-bellied Plover, Killdeer, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Greater Yellowlegs, Willet, Long-billed Curlew, Marbled Godwit, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl, Short-eared Owl, Allen's Hummingbird, Northern Flicker, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, American Crow, Common Raven, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Marsh Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, American Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, House Finch, House Sparrow.

-submitted by Alan Wight

Redwood Region Ornithological Society 2002-2003- Officers**Board of Directors**

President	Ted Eliot	5850 Grove Street Sonoma CA 95476	patted@sonic.net	935-3410
Vice President	Eric Lichtwardt		bufo@pacbell.net	829-3460
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Committee Chairs

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

Kite Tales Deadlines

March 20th Observations Deadline
Submit sightings to New Wynn
via email or call between 8 am and 8 pm

March 24th Submission Deadline
Submit all announcements, articles,
trivia, letters, etc. to Ruth Rudesill
via email, mail or phone call

Observations

Species	Date	Location	Co	#	Observers	Notes
Red-necked Grebe	1/24/03	Near Bodega harbor jetty	SON	1	BDP	
Red-necked Grebe	2/23/03	Near Seal Rock	SON	2	RLe	
✓ Northern Fulmar	2/8/03	Off Bodega Head	SON	45+	DN	
✓ Northern Fulmar	2/17-23/03	Off Bodega jetties	SON	2-6	AW,RLe	
✓ Sooty Shearwater	2/23/03	Off Bodega Head	SON	1	BBu,IM,Bol,Kwi, BP	
Manx Shearwater	2/4/03	Off se of San Clemente Island	San Diego?	1	RAR	Seen from ship life-state bird
Blue-footed Booby	2/5/03	South of El Bufadora coast, Baja Calif		1	RAR	Adult -world lifer
✓ Gr. White-fronted Goose	2/3/03	Shiloh Rd	SON	1	DN	
✓ Canada Goose	3/3/03	Acrossed from Lakeville Sewer Pond	SON	1	AW	Aleutian
✓ Canada Goose	2/9/03	Bodega Farm Pond	SON	1	AW	Aleutian
✓ Ross' Goose	2/3/03	Shiloh Rd, near Golf Course	SON	3	DN	
✓ Canvasback	2/5/03	Tubbs Island	SON	290	BDP,Herb McGrew	Large #
Tufted Duck	2/2/03	Bolinas Lagoon	MRN	1	RMe	
Tufted Duck	2/8-23/03	Pond on Las Amigas Rd	NAP	1	BDP,RAR, DS,mob	Female
✓ Tufted Duck	2/26/03	Bodega Harbor	SON	1	TMc	Male
✓ Tufted/ Gr.Scaup cross	2/24/03	Petaluma River	SON	1	RLe	
✓ Blue-winged Teal	January	Schollenberger Park	SON	8+	mob	
✓ Blue-winged Teal	1/25/03	Sebastopol CommCtr	SON	1	DN	
✓ Blue-winged Teal	1/26/03	Hudemann Slough	SON	1	BDP	Ad male
✓ Hooded Merganser	2/9/03	Hudemann Slough	SON	2	BDP	females
✓ Common Merganser	1/26/03	Hudemann Slough	SON	11	BDP	females
✓ Black Scoter	Jan-Feb	Doran jetty area	SON	1	DN	
✓ Black Scoter	2/16/03	Goat Rock	SON	1	D&LR	
✓ White-winged Scoter	2/23/03	Near Seal Rocks	SON	1	RLe	
Peregrine Falcon	1/24/03	Bodega Harbor	SON	1	BDP	
✓ Merlin	2/19/03	Ramal Rd	SON	1	RLe	
✓ Merlin	2/23/03	Hwy 1/Bodega Bay	SON	1	RLe	female
✓ Golden Eagle	2/19/03	Ramal Rd	SON	1	RLe	
✓ Rough-legged Hawk	2/9/03	Willow Creek Rd	SON	1	D&LR	
✓ Rough-legged Hawk	2/9/03	Bodega Farm pond	SON	1	AW	
✓ Ferruginous Hawk	2/4/03	Salmon Creek Rd	SON	1	BDP,DHo	adult
✓ Ferruginous Hawk	2/8/03	Willow Creek Rd	SON	1	D&LR	
✓ Ferruginous Hawk	2/16/03	Adobe Road	SON	1	AW	
✓ Swainson's Hawk	2/22/03	Skaggs Island	SON	1	DAsh,BDP,AW	Dark morph imm
Black Rail	2/8/03	Doran Park	SON	1	BDP	calling
Black Rail	2/22-23/03	Sw corner of Schollenberger Park	SON	1	AW,BBu,IM,BP, Kwi,BOI	calling
Sora	1/26/03	Hudemann Slough	SON	1	BDP	

✓	Sora	2/19/03	Schollenberger Park	SON	1	D&LR	
✓	Pacific Golden-plover	1/28/03	Schollenberger Park	SON	1	DN	
✓	Long-billed Curlew	Jan-Feb	Port Sonoma	SON	220+	DN	
✓	Red Knot	2/23/03	Bodega Harbor near PO	SON	1	RLe	
✓	Ancient Murrelet	2/4/03	Off Duncan's Landing	SON	1	BDP,DHo	
✓	Marbled Murrelet	1/24/03	Off Bodega Head	SON	2	DN,RLe	
✓	Marbled Murrelet	2/4/03	Off Duncan's Landing	SON	2	BDP,DHo	
✓	Marbled Murrelet	2/8/03	Off Bodega Head	SON	1	BDP	
✓	Marbled Murrelet	2/23/03	Off Bodega Head	SON	2	RLe	
✓	Heermann's Gull	2/17/03	Bodega Harbor jetties	SON	4	AW	
	Royal Tern	2/4/03	Near Santa Catalina Island	LA/Ora nge	3-4	RAR	State bird for RAR #491
✓	Short-eared Owl	1/28/03	So. of Schollenberger	SON	1	DN	
✓	Short-eared Owl	1/18/03	Sebastopol area	SON	5	Bob Evans	
✓	Short-eared Owl	2/16/03	Ramal Rd preserve	SON	1	AW	
✓	No. Pygmy-owl	2/9/03	Willow Creek Rd	SON	1	D&LR	
	Ruddy Ground-Dove	mid Jan	Sirrocco ? New Mexic		1	BDP	ABA #699
	Ruddy Ground-Dove	Mid Jan	Patons yard in Patagonia, Arizona		2	TE,DASH,BGr	Lifer for all
	Eurasian Collared-dove	1/19/03	South Santa Rosa	SON	1	RMe	Had worn feathers
✓	Allen's Hmmingbird	2/4/03	Salmon Creek Rd	SON	1	BDP,DHo	Adult male
✓	Rufous Hummingbird	2/7/03	Oakmont Feeder	SON	1	BGr	male
✓	Rufous Hummingbird	2/16/03	Bodega Dunes SP	SON	1	D&LR	
✓	White-throated Swift	2/9/03	Petaluma	SON	sev	AW	
	Gray Thrasher	2/5/03	Southeast of El Bufadora, Baja California		1	RAR	Extreme north end of range/in correct habitat
	Black-capped Gnatcatcher	mid Jan	Lake Patagonis, Arizona		2	TE,DASH, BGr	Lifer for all
✓	Orange-crowned Warbler	2/4/03	Spring Lake	SON	1	D&LR	
✓	Nor. Rough-winged Swallow	2/4/03	Willow Creek Canyon	SON	1	BDP,DHo	
✓	Tree Swallow	1/26/03 2/9/03	Hudemann Slough	SON	30 50	BDP	
✓	Tree Swallow	2/20/03	Golden Gate Park campus	SFO	1	EKW	
	Tree Swallow	2/21/03	Healdsburg	SON	2	EKW	
	Violet-green Swallow	2/4/03	Willow Creek Canyon	SON	2	BDP,DHo	
	Rusty Blackbird	1/26/03	Sunnyvale	SCL	1	AW	
	Red Crossbill	1/27/03	Muddy Hollow	MRN	15	BDP	

Observers: Dick Ashford, Betty Burridge, Ted Eliot, Betty Groce, David Hoffman, Rick Lebaudour, Ian Morrison, Richard Merriss, Dan Nelson, BDP-MikeParmeter, , Bill Payne, Richert, Ruth Rudesill, Doug Shaw, Ken Wilson, Alan Wight, EKW Ned Wynn

Betty Burridge reports long time member Olive Corey has moved to a Board and Care home and would appreciate cards and visits. She is at the Carriage House, 5695 Carriage Lane, Windsor.

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

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

March 13	General Meeting 7:30 pm
March 20	Observations Deadline
March 24	Kite tales Deadline
March 28	Field Trip to Susanville
April 19	Field Trip to Michell Canyon
December 14	Santa Rosa CBC

Kite Tales
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