



Kite Tales

Volume 38 Number III

November 2003

Coming Attractions

Thursday, November 13 – 7:30 General Meeting at Administration Building, Laguna Wastewater Treatment Plant - 4300 Llano Road, Santa Rosa

Program will be:

Saturday, November 8 – 8:30 a.m. Field Trip to Willow Creek Canyon

Meet at Bridgehaven Pond (at the intersection of Highways 1 and 116) at 8:30 am. Park off the road in the dirt area. We will scope the Russian River mouth and then head up into Willow Creek Canyon for a day of landbirding. 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.

Sunday, December 14 - Santa Rosa Christmas Count

Mark your calendars and be sure to participate. Even if you can only count part of the day, it is a big help. See inside for more details and contacts.

2003 Dues are due- if you haven't paid, please \$8 for single or \$15 for family to Mike Nelligan ASAP.

Bodega Harbor Field Trip Report - October 18, 2003 – by Alan Wight

The morning fog lifted and we saw a nice variety of birds, including several highlights. A single dark Northern Fulmar was on the water near the harbor entrance jetties. Three adult Snow Geese were in the pond near the entrance to Doran County Park. Two Pacific Golden-Plovers were mixed in with the other shorebirds on the Doran mudflats. Two Elegant Terns flew over this same location in the afternoon. A single male White-winged Scoter was on the water off of Doran Beach. Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, and Red Knots were also seen. The field trip participants were Linda Allen, Sharon Audiss, Carol Brant, Betty Burrige, Jim Clegg, Mel Davison, Nancy Davison, Dea Freid, Betty Groce, Deyea Harper, Jack Harper, Louise Johnston, Jack Jones, Marilyn Jones, Don Kirker, Gloria Markowitz, Don McCarthy, Mike Nelligan, Carol Orme, Rhio Reigh, Phyllis Schmitt, Don Toms, Jean Tonascia, and Alan Wight.

Birds observed: Pacific Loon, Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Northern Fulmar, American White Pelican, Brown Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Brandt's Cormorant, Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, American Wigeon, Greater Scaup, Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, California Quail, American Coot, Black-bellied Plover, Pacific Golden-Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Black Oystercatcher, American Avocet, Willet, Whimbrel, Long-billed Curlew, Marbled Godwit, Black Turnstone, Surfbird, Red Knot, Sanderling, Western Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitcher, Long-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Snipe, Red/Red-necked Phalarope, Heermann's Gull, Mew Gull, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, Western Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Elegant Tern, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Great Horned Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Black Phoebe, Western Scrub-Jay, Common Raven, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Bewick's Wren, Winter Wren, Marsh Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Hutton's Vireo, Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's and Myrtle), Common Yellowthroat, California Towhee, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, American Goldfinch.

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Santa Rosa Christmas Bird Count:

The 2003 Santa Rosa Christmas Count will take place from 12:01 am to 11:59 pm on Sunday, **December 14, 2003**. I'll snail-mail an information package in the next few days, but please e-mail me if:

1. There was a problem in your Count Area last year that I can solve or mitigate this year.
2. You need to recruit help for your portion of the 2003 Count.

Thanks, Bob Evans 823-0609 rgevans@sonic.net

SPECIAL EVENT - 7th ANNUAL CENTRAL VALLEY BIRDING SYMPOSIUM

Cheri Pillsbury reports the Central Valley Bird Club will be hosting the Seventh Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium Nov. 20-23, 2003 at the Radisson Hotel in Stockton, CA.

There will be field trips, workshops, a Birding Nature Fair and Art Show with over 25 vendors selling nature related items, etc.

Jon Dunn will be giving a Sparrow ID workshop, **Steve Howell** a Hummingbird ID Workshop, and **Kimball Garrett** will tell us "Why Birders Should Care About Subspecies".

The Keynote Speakers are: **Ed Harper**- "A Passion for Birds", **Keith Hansen**- "The Farallons", and **John Hendrickson**- "California Raptors".

The schedule, registration form, etc. are on the website: <http://cvbs.org>

The non-computer inclined can contact Frances Oliver at (209) 369-2010.

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

President	Eric Lichtwardt	480 Zimpher Dr. Sebastopol CA 95472	eric.lightwardt@lsa.assoc.com
			829-3460
Vice President	Ian Morrison	Adobe Canyon Rd	Kenwood CA 95452
			538-9194
Secretary	Deyea Harper	2310 Northwood Dr	Santa Rosa CA 95404
			542-1542
Treasurer	Mike Nelligan	1653 Arroyo Sierra Way Santa Rosa	CA 95405 bandm@monitor.net
			527-0225

Committee Chairs

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

Kite Tales Deadlines:

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

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

Trivia question – is the Bonaparte's Gull named for Napoleon Bonaparte?

Answer in the December Kite tales within an interesting article by Mike Nelligan.

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

Observations

Bird Species	Date	Location	Cty	#	Observers Notes
Red-necked Grebe	10/9/03	Bodega Harbor,	SON	1	AW molting adult
Northern Fulmar	10/18/03	Bodega Harbor jetties	SON	1	AW, RROS
Dark form, on water					
✓Northern Fulmar	10/26/03	Duncans Landing	SON	Sev	RS
✓Cattle Egret	10/07/03	High School Rd	SON	7	LHu
✓Snow Goose	10/26/03	Doran Beach	SON	40	RS
✓Ross Goose	10/26/03	Doran Beach	SON	5	RS
✓Canada Goose	10/26/03	Salmon Creek Bridge	SON	1	RS Cackling
✓Canada Goose	10/26/03	Bridgehaven	SON	2	RS Aleutian
✓Snow Goose	10/18/03	Doran Pond	SON	3	AW RROS
Adults, still present					
✓White-winged Scoter	10/18/03	off Doran Beach	SON	1	AW, RROS male
✓Harlequin Duck	10/26/03	Duncan's Landing	SON	6	RS
Harlequin Duck	10/6/03	Humboldt Bay	HUM	1	KAc, GMa
Merlin	10/03/03	Doran Park	SON	2	RS
Merlin	10/18/03	Doran Park	SON	1	MN, AW, RROS
Golden Eagle	10/03/03	Hawk Hill	MRN	2 juv	Kwi, BOI
Northern Goshawk	10/03/03	Hawk Hill	MRN	1 juv	KWI, BOI
Sharp-shinned Hawk	10/21/03	Dutton Ccreek	SON	1	JRi on prey
Broad-winged Hawk	10/3/03	Hawk Hill	MRN	27!	Kwi, BOI
Ferruginous Hawk	10/14/03	East Railroad Ave	SON	1	AW
✓Ferruginous Hawk	10/26/03	Russian Gulch	SON	2	RS
One light and one dark morph					
Swainson's Hawk	10/12/03	Hwy 80 w Sacramento	YOL	9	KWI, BOI
✓Pacific Golden-Plover	10/18/03	Doran mudflats	SON	2	AW, RROS
✓Black Turnstone	10/9/03	Doran mudflats	SON	100+	AW
Long-billed Curlew	10/18/03	Spud Point	SON	3	BBu, AW
✓Red Knot	10/18/03	Bodega Harbor	SON	2+	AW, RROS
✓Red Knot	10/03/03	Doran Park	SON	5	RS
✓Stilt Sandpiper	10/6/03	Sonoma Wetlands	SON	1	RS
first basic plumage		south of Hwy 37			
✓Red Phalarope	10/26/03	Duncans Landing	SON	sev	RS
Caspian Tern	10/9/03	Bodega Harbor	SON	1	AW adult
✓Elegant Tern	10/18/03	Doran Co Park	SON	2	AW, RROS
Pigeon Guillemot	10/18/03	Bodega Harbor,	SON	2	AW, RROS
Juveniles					
Northern Pygmy Owl	10/26/03	Willow Creel Rd	SON	1	RS
Spotted Owl	10/05/03	Hawk Hill	MRN	1	Kwi, BOI
✓Burrowing Owl	10/13/03	Bodega Head	SON	1	ADe
Red-breasted Sapsucker	10/9/03	Armstrong Woods	SON	1	DBe, PCo
Nuttall's Woodpecker	10/18/03	Near Rail Ponds, Bodega Harbor	SON	1	AW, RROS
Odd location					

Observations cont.

✓Poorwill	10/12/03	Bay Hill Road	SON	1	NC
✓Tropical Kingbird	10/19/03	Salmon Creek	SON	1	ELi
✓Tropical Kingbird	10/13/03	Doran Park	SON	1	ADe
Steller's Jay	10/21/03	Dutton Creek feeder	SON	1	JRi
✓Red-throated Pipit	10/3/03	Doran Park	SON	1	RS
✓Red-throated Pipit	10/6/03	Sonoma Wetlands South of Hwy 37	SON	1	RS
✓Canyon Wren	10/12/03	Mt. St. Helena	SON	1	AW
✓Townsend's Solitaire	10/12/03	Mt. St. Helena	SON	1	AW
Lincoln's Sparrow	9/16/03	Lawndale Trailhead	SON	1	KAc
Vesper Sparrow	9/18/03	Vista Trail, Sugarloaf	SON	1	KAc
Fox Sparrow thick-billed form	10/12/03	Mt. St. Helena	NAP	6+	AW

CONTRIBUTORS: Ken Ackerman, Dennis Beall, Betty Burrige, Pam Conley, Nancy Conzett, Al DeMartini, Lisa Hug, Les and Cindy Lieurance, Eric Lichtwardt, Gloria Markowitz, Mike Nelligan, Becky Olsen, Jerry Rickard, Rich Stallcup and Alan Wight

Book Review – by Ruth Rudesill**“Birding On Borrowed Time” by Phoebe Snetsinger (available thru ABA Sales)**

I read this book in one sitting....I was amazed at the life and adventures of this remarkable woman. For those who do not know about her, she has the largest world life list of over 8400 species. She was killed in Madagascar while on a birding trip several years ago.

I found her story to be truly incredible – she didn't start birding until her mid-thirties and serious listing until her forties. She had a terminal cancer diagnosis and decided to go birding instead of dying. Her cancer went into a series of remissions and she birded almost full time for 20 years.

Mrs. Snetsinger had the means to do this and I was interested in her family's reactions. She does touch on missing important family events and had some family trouble due to her birding. (I was reminded of a time when I was impatiently waiting for my sister's wedding reception to end so I could go chase a Terek Sandpiper in Carmel.)

The psychology of her birding and reactions to her life events was very interesting. Listing became an obsession and seem to be the answer to any troubles in her life. But she was also very self educated in bird identification and kept very organized notes (without a computer.) She held her bird sightings to very high standards having to id the bird herself, documented with extensive notes.

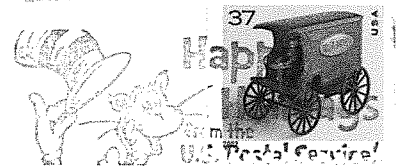
Even if you are not a lister, I recommend this book about a true modern adventurer in our hobby/sport. The book is complimented with beautiful illustrations by H. Douglas Pratt and photos.

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

November 13 General Meeting 7:30 pm
November 8 Field Trip to Willow Creek Rd
November 20 Observations Deadline
November 24 Kite Tales Deadline
December 14 Santa Rosa CBC

Kite Tales
PO Box 371
Kenwood CA 95452-0371



Parmeter, BD & S, Fnd. Membrs
2500 Emerson St.
Napa CA 94558

