



Kite Tales

Volume 39 Number II

October 2004

Coming Attractions

**Thursday, October 14 – 7:30 General Meeting at Administration Building,
Laguna Wastewater Treatment Plant - 4300 Llano Road, Santa Rosa**

**Program will be: Bird Evolution presented by Nick Geist. This is an interesting subject
We will have another terrific program. Don't miss it!!**

Saturday, October 16– 8:00 a.m. Field Trip to Bodega Harbor

**Please note the change of date since the September Kite Tales. Meet in the
parking area near the rail ponds at the north end of Bodega Harbor at 8:00
a.m. 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 p.m. or weekends any time) if you have any questions.**

Saturday, November 6 – 8:30 a.m. Field Trip to the Sonoma Coast

**Meet at Bridgehaven Pond (at the intersection of Highways 1 and 116 along
the Russian River) at 8:30 a.m. Park off the road in the dirt area. We
will bird the area around the Russian River and then make our way down the
coast towards Bodega Harbor. 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.**

November 18-21, Central Valley Birding Symposium

**It will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Stockton. Great field trips, workshops, and speakers.
For information: call Frances Oliver (209) 369-2010 or <http://www.cvbs.org>.**

Pt. Reyes Trip Report September 25, 2004 - will be reported in the November issue of Kite Tales.

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Correction from September Issue of Kite Tales:

The web address for Alan Wight's web page of photos and information from last June's Kern River Preserve field trip was incorrect. The correct address is:

http://www.sonic.net/~shwand/kern_2004/kern_2004.htm

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Hey Listers!! The 45th Supplement to the AOU Checklist was published in the July 2004 issue of the Auk 121(3):985-995. For those not familiar with the AOU Checklist, it governs taxonomy (including splits/lumps, common names, scientific names, and order) of North American species. Note that the ABA Checklist is what governs the publication of the ABA listers totals. Here is the big news!

Cackling Goose has been split and is now a separate species from Canada Goose:

a. Cackling Goose (*Anser hutchinsii*) [the small forms] includes the former Canada Goose subspecies *hutchinsii* [Richardson's], *asiatica* [Bering-extinct?], *leucopareia* [Aleutian], *taverneri* [part of the Lesser complex], and *minima*.

b. Canada Goose (*Anser canadensis*) now includes the subspecies *canadensis* [Atlantic], *interior* [Interior], *maxima* [Giant], *moffitti* [Moffit's], *parvipes* [the other part of the Lesser complex], *fulva* [Vancouver], and *occidentalis* [Dusky]. More splits of this complex may yet to come.

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Congratulations to Betty Groce on her # 700 ABA Bird: the Razorbill !!!

Betty and Jack traveled to the Maritimes and New England for three weeks. They had several great boat trips out of Byer Island, Nova Scotia seeing along with many Humpback Whales, Common Eiders, and Black Guillemots - # 699 Greater Shearwater, 700 Razorbill, 701 Atlantic Puffin, 702 Great Cormorant and in a marsh in New Hampshire # 703 Salt Marsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow! She said Prince Edward Island was gorgeous!

Bird Book Review

reported by Ruth Rudesill

The Big Year A Tale of Man, Nature, And Fowl Obsession by Mark Obmascik
2004/ Free Press

The Big Year is an interesting chronicle of three men who all decide to do an ABA Area big year in 1998. The three men are Al Levantin, Greg Miller, and Sandy Komito - all trying to break Komito's 1987 record of 721 birds in one calendar year. For listers this seems a daunting (and very expensive) task. The author does a biography of these three very different men, two of which are wealthy and retired, and one who works full time and is in debt when he begins!

The author has a great style that would interest even the non-birder in the race. The psychology of these men and the other people they meet on their respective journeys is fascinating. The author doesn't mince words about some of the negative aspects of this type of adventure.

A positive for the book is the descriptions of the various locations they travel to and the birds they see. I know there are people in our club that have endured the mosquitoes of Snake Bight Trail and the unbelievable conditions of Attu, seen the beauty of Cave Creek Canyon, and relished the excitement of a fallout on High Island in spring.

I recommend this book as a history of the chase and the life list. Non-birders will get an insight into the sport but may not understand or appreciate the excesses. I did notice that there are no women on the list of all time Big Years -hmm....maybe someday I'll go for it!

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Redwood Region Ornithological Society 2004-2005 –Officers/Board of Directors

President	Ian Morrison	905 Adobe Canyon Rd., Kenwood CA 95452	ian@svn.net	833-2065
Vice President	Lisa Hug	507 N Main St. Sebastopol Ca 85472	lisahug@earthlink.net	824-1067
Secretary	Deyea Harper	2310 Northwood Dr. Santa Rosa CA 95404		542-1542
Treasurer	Mike Nelligan	4663 Sullivan Way, Santa Rosa CA 95409	mnbudymn@sonic.net	539-1897

Committee Chairs

Field Trips	Alan Wight		schwand@sonic.net	763-8572
Observations	Ruth Rudesill	PO Box 371 Kenwood CA 95452	ra@pcweb.net	833-6026
Christmas Count	Ken Ackerman	47 Oakbrook Ct. Santa Rosa CA 95409		538-2038
Kite Tales	Betty Burrige	1653 Arroyo Sierra Way Santa Rosa CA	bandm@moniter.net	527-0225

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

Observations August - September 2004

Bird Species	Date	Location	Cty	#	Observers	Notes
✓ White-footed Goose	9/20/04	Bodega Bay	SON	1	RSt	Tundra race
Harlequin Duck	7/20/04	Crescent City	DN	2f	BDP, RAR, AW	
Yellow-billed Loon	9/19/04	off Bodega Head	SON	1	CLu	
✓ Laysan Albatross	9/17/04	Cordell Bank	MRN	1	SHo, DSh **	
✓ Dark-rumped Petrel	9/17/04	Cordell Bank	MRN?	1	SHo, DSh **	
Pink-footed Shearwater	9/19/04	off bodega Head	MRN	75	CLu	
✓ Greater Shearwater	8/29/04	8 mi off Bodega Head	SON?	1	RS,RAR,AW,LLu,CLu,TE,	mob well photographed, documented and video 3 rd North Pacific record **
Flesh-fleshed Shearwater	8/29/04	offshore Marin Co	MRN	1	RS, LLu,CLu,mob	
✓ Streaked Shearwater	9/17/04	offshore	SON/MRN ?	1	SHo,DSh **	
Leach's Storm-petrel	8/29/04	Cordell Bank	MRN	1	RS mob	
Wilson's Storm-petrel	8/29/04	Cordell Bank area	MRN	5	RS mob	
Red-billed Tropicbird	9/11/04	offshore Ventura Co	MRN	3	TE	
Broad-winged Hawk	9/26/04	Hawk Hill	MRN	3	AW	
		including one dark morph				
Golden Eagle	9/26/04	Hawk Hill	MRN	1imm	AW	
✓ Ferruginous Hawk	9/26/04	Hawk Hill	MRN	1	AW	
✓ Crested Caracara	8/1/04	Walker Rd	SON	1	LLu,CLu	last day seen?
		Note: A Crested Caracara was sighted in Mendocino county later in August and later still in Humboldt county. Per the photographs it appears it is the same bird.				
✓ Common Moorhen	9/6-21/04	Hole in The Head	SON	1 imm	AW,RLeb, DVP	
✓ Pacific Golden-plover	9/6/04	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	LHg	
✓ American Golden-plover	9/6/04	Doran mudflats	SON	1	AW, DRe, RLeb	photo
✓ Snowy Plover	9/6-8/04	Doran mudflats	SON	12	AW,RLeb, DRe,BDP	
✓ Baird's Sandpiper	9/6/04	Doran Lagoon	SON	2	FHa	
✓ Wandering Tattler	9/6/04	Bodega Head	SON	1	AW,RLeb, DRe	
✓ Pectoral Sandpiper	9/6/04	Doran Lagoon	SON	3	FHa	
✓ Dunlin	9/6/04	Doran Pond	SON	2	SBL, AW	early
✓ Red Knot	9/6/04	Doran Park	SON	12	FHa, SBL, AW	
Red-necked Phalarope	9/6/04	Doran Park	SON	7	FHa	
✓ Elegant Tern	8/25/04	Gaffney Pt, Bodega Harbor	SON	300+	BDP,DHo	
✓ Elegant tern	8/29/04	Doran Mudflats	SON	250+	RS, RAR,mob	
✓ Elegant Tern	9/1/04	Salmon Creek	SON	150+	BDP,TE	
✓ Elegant Tern	9/6-8/04	Doran Harbor	SON	53	FHa, BDP,DHo	
Arctic Tern	8/29/04	Cordell Bank	MRN	8+	RS,mob	
Common Tern	9/25/04	Tomales Bay	MRN	1imm	AW, RAR,TE,DRe	
Common Tern	8/29/04	Cordell Bank	MRN	3-6	RS,mob	
✓ Least Tern	8/22/04	Doran Park	SON	1	ELi	
South Polar Skua	8/29/04	Cordell Bank area	MRN	7	RS mob	
Parasitic Jaeger	9/18/04	Stinson Beach	MRN	3	AW	
✓ Parasitic Jaegar	9/21/04	Bodega Head	SON	1	BDP, DHo,	dark phase
✓ Marbled Murrelet	8/29/04	Bodega Bay	SON	2	RS, RAR,	mob
✓ Marbled Murrelet	9/6/04	Bodega Harbor	SON	2	FHa	
Xantu's Murrelet	9/17/04	Cordell Bank	MRN	1	SHo, DSh	

Observations Cont. August - September 2004

Bird Species	Date	Location	Cty	#	Observers	Notes
✓ White-winged Dove	9/1/04	Westside Park landng	SON	1	DN	
✓ Vaux's Swift	9/8/04	Bodega Harbor	SON	1	BDP, DHo	
✓ Nuttall's Woodpecker	8/28/04	Owl Canyon	SON	1	BDP	
✓ Nuttall's Woodpecker	9/1-28/04	Owl Canyon	SON	1	BDP, TE, DHo	
✓ Pica (Magpie) species	9/26/04	Bodega Head	SON	1	MBr, DVP	
✓ Purple Martin	9/6/04	Doran Park	SON	1f	FHa	
✓ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	9/8/04	Bay Hill Rd top	SON	1	BDP, DHo	
Orange-cr. Warbler	9/8/04	Owl Canyon	SON	1	BDP, DHo	
Cassin's Sparrow	9/17/04	Stinson Beach	MRN	1	BDP, DN, mob	
✓ Bobolink	9/21/04	Bodega head parking lot	SON	1	BDP, DHo	

Observers:

Sara Blauman, Matt Brady, Floyd Hayes, David Hofmann, Steve Howell, Lisa Hug, Rick Lebaudour, Eric Lichtwardt, Leslie and Cindy Lieurance, , Dan Nelson, Becky Olsen, Benjamin "Mike" D. Parmeter, Don Reinberg, , Ruth A. Rudesill, Doug Shaw, Debbie Shearwater, Rich Stallcup, Ron Storey, David Vander Pluym, and Alan Wight.

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Note: There has been an on going debate on how to assign county to pelagic sightings. Older literature was going by straight latitude. The California Bird Records Committee website says they are going by Nearest Point of Land (NPL) Here is a dialogue about the county of several hot birds seen recently offshore from the Internet.

" Dark-rumped Petrel in 300 fathoms, the area where a steep dropoff occurs between the (Bodega)canyon and the Cordell Bank (3806.82N/12331.65W), about 24 nautical miles WSW of Bodega Head. This is an area where we have seen gadfly petrels in past years. I'm not sure if this is Sonoma or Marin County " (Debi Shearwater)

" The Department of Fish and Game has a GIS application called Spatial Locator. I was able to plot Debi's lat-longs on a chart and measure to the nearest point of land. Using that method, the Streaked Shearwater was 14.75 miles from Bodega Head and over 15 miles to any point in Marin County, while the Dark-rumped Petrel was 15.24 miles from Point Reyes and over 16 miles to Bodega Head. By the CPL method, then, the Streaked Shearwater was in Sonoma Co. and the petrel was in Marin. The Streaked Shearwater was at 3809.17N/12315.62W. Marin County?

Les Lieurance did something similar to what I did and got similar results for the location of the recent Streaked Shearwater sighting, but different results for the Dark-rumped Petrel. I recalculated and got the same results as Les the 2nd time - the petrel was 0.3 mi closer to Bodega Head than to Pt. Reyes, so it too was in Sonoma County! "(Bruce Deuel)

The August 29, 2004 Greater Shearwater was in Marin County by Latitude but nearest point of land was Bodega Head. Les Lieurance did get a GPS sighting for the bird.

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 4663 Sullivan Way, Santa Rosa CA 95405.

CALENDAR

- October 14 General Meeting 7:30 pm
- October 16 Field Trip to Bodega Harbor
- October 20 Observations Deadline
- October 24 Kite Tales Deadline
- November 6 Field Trip to Sonoma Coast
- November 18-21 Central Valley Birding Symposium

Kite Tales
1653 Arroyo Sierra Way
Santa Rosa CA 95405

October 2004



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