

# Kite Tales

Volume 39 Number IV & V

December 2004 & January 2005

**THIS IS A NEW AND IMPROVED COMBINED EDITION FOR BOTH DECEMBER AND JANUARY. Next issue not 'til FEB.**

## **GENERAL MEETING Dec.9, Thursday 7:30**

At Administration Bldg., Laguna Wastewater Plant, 4100 Llano Rd., Santa Rosa

### **DAN NELSON presents a WOW! Bird ID Workshop with slides.**

Prepare for the Christmas Bird Counts. Upgrade your birding skills. Bring your binoculars to see every detail on the screen.

**Directions:** from Hwy 101 take Hwy 116 West toward Sebastopol. Turn right (north) on Llano Rd. and go ~ 1 mile to an open gate on right. Proceed to Admin. Bldg. at SE corner of the plant.

**Why not plan to be at the no-host pre-meeting dinner- 6PM-ish at Mary's Pizza Parlor, 101 Golf Course Dr., Rohnert Park?** It's a great chance to chat with old friends and meet new people. Ask for the 'Bird Club'.

### **Coming attractions:**

DEC. 19, Sun.- **SANTA ROSA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT and POT-LUCK SUPPER**-Ken Ackerman, compiler ([markandack@aol.com](mailto:markandack@aol.com)) 538-2038 (details on page 6)

Jan. 2, Sun.- **WEST. SONOMA CO. CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**- Joy Mander, compiler ([joyskers@aol.com](mailto:joyskers@aol.com)) 778-7865

### **Jan. 8 – Sat. FIELD TRIP TO LAKE BERRYESSA, NAPA COUNTY.**

Meet north of Santa Rosa at the park-and-ride on River Road just west of US101. Meet at 7:30 am. 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. 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.

Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>, Thursday – **RROS General Meeting** – 7:30 (location and directions same as for Dec. 9) **MEMBERS SLIDE NIGHT!** Bring your best slides of the year to dazzle, or puzzle the rest of us. Don't forget your binos.

January 17, Monday - **Madrone Audubon General Meeting** –7:30 First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa. Stephen Shunk presents: **MALHEUR – OREGON'S SAGEBRUSH OCEAN.**

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### **Sonoma Coast Field Trip Report**

November 6, 2004

Eighteen of us birded our way from Willow Creek Canyon to the Russian River mouth and then down the Sonoma Coast. Highlights were three Greater White-fronted Geese at Bridgehaven, two Ferruginous Hawks, a Spotted Sandpiper at Jenner, two Red Phalaropes at Duncan's Landing, five Marbled Murrelets, two White-winged Scoters, and a Black Scoter. The field trip participants were Ken Ackerman, Linda Allen, Carol Brant, Jim Clegg, Ted Eliot, Dea Freid, Betty Groce, Joel Hornstein, Linda Hornstein, Jo Maillard, Gloria Markowitz, Herb McGrew, Mike Parmeter, Linda Petrulias, Shirley Spina, Ann Stone, Don Toms, Jean Tonascia, and Alan Wight.

**Birds observed:** Red-throated Loon, Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Clark's Grebe, Brown Pelican, Brandt's Cormorant, Double-crested Cormorant, Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Turkey Vulture, Greater White-fronted Goose, Canada Goose, American Wigeon, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Greater Scaup, Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Black Scoter, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Osprey, White-tailed Kite, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, American Kestrel, California Quail, Virginia Rail, American Coot, Killdeer, Black Oystercatcher, Spotted Sandpiper, Black Turnstone, Surf-bird, Red Phalarope, Bonaparte's Gull, Heermann's Gull, Mew Gull, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, Herring Gull, Western Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Common Murre, Marbled Murrelet, Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Hutton's Vireo, Steller's Jay, Western Scrub-Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Bewick's Wren, Marsh Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Western Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Wrentit, European Starling, American Pipit, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Spotted Towhee, California Towhee, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Pine Siskin.

Alan Wight

**ERIC LICHTWARDT** recently left Sonoma County with his family to take advantage of greener pastures on the farm known as Stanford. THANKS FOR BEING LAST YEAR'S PRESIDENT, AND FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT, ERIC! We miss you a lot.

**OLDTIMERS** may want to send a greeting card to, or drop by to visit with **Olive Corey** at Carriage House, 5695 Carriage Ln., Santa Rosa CA 95403. 544-4694

## Observations – Ruth Rudesill

Bird Species	Date	Location	Co.	#	Observers
✓ Tundra Swan	11/13-14/04	Bodega Farm pond	SON	1	DASH, TE, JC, LHu
✓ Ross's Goose	10/23/04	Lucchesi Park, Petlma	SON	1	AW
					still present after all these years
✓ Greater White-fronted Goose	11/6/04	Bridgehaven	SON	3	AW, RROS
✓ Greater White-fronted Goose	11/7/04	Ramal Road Preserve	SON	2	AW
✓ Greater White-fronted Goose	11/11/04	Duncan's Mills	SON	2	BDP
✓ Harlequin Duck	11/4/04	Fort Ross	SON	1	KAc, GMa
✓ White-winged Scoter	11/6/04	Duncan's Landing	SON	1	BDP
✓ Black Scoter	11/6/04	off Duncan's Landing	SON	1	BDP
✓ Eurasian Wigeon	11/1-6/04	Salmon Creek mouth	SON	1m	DF, BDP, AW, TE
✓ Green-winged Teal	10/29/04	Doran Pond	SON	57	DF high #
Wood Duck	11/13/04	Bodega Farm Pond	SON	1	DASH, TE
Hooded Mergansers	11/13/04	Carmody Rd. Pond	SON	4	DASH, TE
✓ Buller's Shearwater	10/16/04	off Bodega Head	SON	3+	DN, AW, RROS
Red-necked Grebe	10/16/04	off Doran Beach	SON	1ad	AW, RROS
Red-necked Grebe	11/2-14/04	Bodega Harbor jetty	SON	2	DWi, BDP, TE
Merlin	11/7/04	Hudemann Slough	SON	1	DASH, BDP
✓ Prairie Falcon	11/14/04	Hudemann Slough	SON	1	BDP
Peregrine Falcon	10/19/04	over Doran Pond	SON	1	DF
Peregrine Falcon	11/11/04	Doran Park	SON	1	BDP
✓ Bald Eagle	10/29/04	Spring Lake Park	SON	1	LBr
✓ Golden Eagle	11/7/04	Ramal Road	SON	2-3	DASH, BDP
✓ Golden Eagle	11/12/04	Hwy 12 at So Co line	SON	1ad	AW
✓ Ferruginous Hawk	11/6/04	Bridgehaven	SON	2	BDP
✓ Ferruginous Hawk	11/7/04	Ramal Road	SON	1	DASH, BDP
					Dark morph
Swainson's Hawk	11/12/04	Bouldin Island	SJN	3	AW
Sharp-shinned Hawk	11/2/04	Hole-in-the-Head	SON	1	BDP
Clapper Rail	11/14/04	Buchli Road	NAP	1	BDP calling
✓ Common Moorhen	11/2/04	Hole-in-the-Head	SON	1 subad	BDP
✓ Pacific Golden-Plover	10/24/04	west end Bodega Hrb	45rSON	1	LLi
Snowy Plovers	11/13/04	Doran Park	SON	3	LHu
American Avocet	10/29/04	Doran Pond	SON	1	DF
Lesser Yellowlegs	11/5/04	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	BD
Lesser Yellowlegs	11/7/04	Hudemann Slough	SON	1	DASH, BDP
Red Knots	11/6/04	Doran Park	SON	6	LHu
Red Knots	11/13/04	at Spud Point	SON	2	DASH, TE
✓ Rock Sandpiper	11/20/04	Bodega Harbor Jetty	SON	1	TC
✓ Surfbird	11/6-7/04	Doran Park	SON	82	DF, LHu
✓ Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	11/7/04	Hudemann Slough	SON	1	DASH, BDP
Red Phalarope	11/5-11/04	Doran Park	SON	2-3	MSM, BDP, LHu
Red-Phalarope	11/14/04	Doran Beach	SON	1	DWi

Bonaparte's Gull	11/6/04	mouth Willow creek	SON	1ad	BDP
✓ Heermann's Gull	10/24/04	Campbell Cove	SON	125	BDP
Elegant Tern	10/24/04	offshore Bodega Head	SON	8	BDP
✓ Jaeger sp.	10/16/04	off Bodega Head	SON	1	AW
✓ Parasitic Jaeger	10/24/04	off Bodega Head	SON	2	BDP dark phase
✓ Long-Billed Murrelet	11/20/04	Bodega Harbor	SON	1	TC no details
Marbled Murrelet	11/6/04	off Duncan's Landing	SON	3	BDP
Marbled Murrelet	11/13/04	Duncan's Landing	SON	1	DAsh, TE
Marbled Murrelet	11/13/04	Bodega Harbor	SON	1	DAsh, TE
Marbled Murrelet	11/14/04	Doran Beach	SON	1	DWi
Pigeon Guillemot	11/6/04	Bodega Harbor jetties	SON	3	BDP, LHu
Band-tailed Pigeon	11/2/04	Hole-in-the Head area	SON	1	BDP
✓ Long-eared Owl	10/27/04	Bodega Marine Lab	SON	1	DHo
✓ Spotted/Barred Owl hybrid	10/28/04	Monte Rio?	SON	1	Bird Rescue Ctr
		Brought in dead, possibly hit by car, shows characteristics of both species JW			
Allen's Hummingbird	10/29/04	Santa Rosa	SON	1	DSh
Nuttall's Woodpecker	10/24/04	Owl Canyon/trees at Bodega Marine Lab	SON	1-2	BDP
✓ Tropical Kingbird	11/6/04	Doran Beach	SON	1	MBr
Say's Phoebe	10/27/04	off Doran Pond	SON	1	DF
✓ Tree Swallow	11/14/04	Shollenberger Park	SON	30	LHug
Wrentit	10/2/04	Hole in the head pond	SON	1	BDP
Northern Mockingbird.	10/26-28/04	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	BD leucistic
<i>SAME</i> ✓ Nashville Warbler	11/6/04	Salmon Creek mouth	SON	1	AW, TE, BDP
✓ Nashville Warbler	11/6/04	Salmon Crk. overlook	SON	1	BDP
✓ Palm Warbler	10/29/04	Two Rock Training Facility	SON	1	LBr
✓ Palm Warbler	10/24/04	Sea Ranch	SON	1	LS
		Walk-On Beach			
✓ Chipping Sparrow	11/4/04	Bridgehaven	SON	1	KAc, GMa
✓ Fox Sparrow	11/9/04	Kenwood feeder	SON	1	RAR red race
Swamp Sparrow	11/14/04	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	LHug
White-throated Sparrow	10/29/04	Santa Rosa	SON	1	LBr
White-throated Sparrow	11/9/04	Kenwood Feeder	SON	1	RAR tan stripe
White-throated Sparrow	11/5/04	Windsor River Rd Park	SON	1	MSM
White-throated Sparrow	11/24/04	Campbell Cove	SON	1 ad	LB
✓ Harris's Sparrow	11/14/04	Bodega Head	SON	1	DWi no details
Lapland Longspur	11/14/04	Hudemann Slough	SON	1	BDP calling
Pine Siskin	11/14/04	Kenwood yard	SON	60+	RAR high #s
Evening Grosbeak	10/30/04	Napa yard	SON	1	BDP

**Observers:**

Ken Ackerman, Dick Ashford, Leonie Batkin, Larry Broderick, Michelle Brodie, Ted Chandik, James Clegg, Bob Dyer, Ted Eliot, Dea Freid, David Hofmann, Lisa Hug, Les Lieurance, Dan Nelson, Gloria Markowitz, Benjamin D. "Mike" Parmeter, Ruth Rudesill, Michael San Miguel, Lang Stevenson, Alan Wight, Diane Williams and Jon Winter.

**THERE WAS WIDESPREAD ANGER AND DISAPPOINTMENT** among many of Northern California's birders when news broke last summer about a very rare Crested Caracara in southwest Sonoma County which had not been reported to the general birding public. As a result of the uproar, RROS President Ian Morrison met with Betty Burrige and Ruth Rudesill to discuss RROS policy regarding rare bird sightings in order to best serve the Northern California birding community.

As a brief background, the caracara was first found on private property. The owners did not wish to be disturbed so the decision not to publicize the bird's presence and location was made. A few days later the bird could be seen from a nearby public road. Betty solicited and compiled comments from NorthBayBirders Yahoo Group members and concluded that most felt that the bird should have been immediately reported in any case.

At the RROS meeting called by Ian it was decided that when a rare bird is sighted, its presence, location, and the status of its location (private or public property) should be immediately announced via the RROS phone wheel, North.Cal. Bird Box, NorthBayBirds Yahoo Group, and to CalBirds if warranted. If the bird is on private property, the finder of the bird should first make every effort to discuss all limitations or rules the owner wishes to set for viewing of the bird by the birding public, and these rules should be made clear in communications regarding the sighting. If permission to enter the property is not granted, it is expected that birders will respect the ABA Code of Ethics and not trespass. For RROS members who do not have access to email there will again be a phone wheel. All others will have access to NorthBayBirds. \*(See below.) Two members, (continued on page 6)

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

President	Ian Morrison	905 Adobe Canyon Rd., Kenwood CA 95452	<a href="mailto:ian@svn.net">ian@svn.net</a>	833-2065
Vice President	Lisa Hug	507 N. Main St., Sebastopol CA 95472	<a href="mailto:lisahug@earthlink.net">lisahug@earthlink.net</a>	824-1067
Secretary	Deyea Harper	2310 Northwood Dr., Santa Rosa CA 95404	<a href="mailto:deveah@sbcglobal.net">deveah@sbcglobal.net</a>	542-1542
Treasurer	Mike Nelligan	4663 Sullivan Way, Santa Rosa 95409	<a href="mailto:mnbudymn@sonic.net">mnbudymn@sonic.net</a>	539-1897

### Committee Chairs

Field Trips	Alan Wight	1940 Bristol St., Petaluma 94954	<a href="mailto:shwand@sonic.net">shwand@sonic.net</a>	763-8572
Observations	Ruth Rudesill	PO Box 371 Kenwood CA 95452	<a href="mailto:rar@pcweb.net">rar@pcweb.net</a>	833-6026
Christmas Count	Ken Ackerman	477 Oakbrook Ct., Santa Rosa CA 95409	<a href="mailto:markandack@aol.com">markandack@aol.com</a>	538-2038
Kite Tales	Betty Burrige	1653 Arroyo Sierra Way, Santa Rosa CA 95405	<a href="mailto:bandm@sonic.net">bandm@sonic.net</a>	527-0225
Hospitality	Adeene Nelligan	29 Sequoia Circle, Santa Rosa CA 95401		523-1116

### Kite Tales Deadlines:

Submit Observations to Ruth Rudesill by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Submit all other announcements, articles, trivia, letters etc. to Betty Burrige by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month

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 a one-year membership. Send dues to RROS 4663 Sullivan Way, Santa Rosa CA 95409.

(There was widespread anger.. continued from page 5)  
who have access to the Internet, will be responsible for notifying the phone wheel. (Ruth Rudesill has already volunteered but needs a second person.) The bird sighting must also be reported to NorthBayBirds and the Bird Box. This way all will have an equal chance of getting the word on a rare bird.

Please contact Ruth (833-6026 [rar@pcweb.net](mailto:rar@pcweb.net)) if you wish to help, or be on the phone wheel ASAP. Please also send comments on this policy to the Kite Tales Editor, as it is expected that some polishing will be needed for this system to work smoothly.

**\*An empty message to [NorthBayBirds-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:NorthBayBirds-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) will connect you to NBB. The Northern California Bird Box can be reached at (415) 681-7422.**

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**SANTA ROSA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT – SUNDAY, DEC. 19  
POST-COUNT POTLUCK AT WIKIUP GREENS CLUBHOUSE-**

**Thank you Bob and Bertha Rains for being our hosts!**

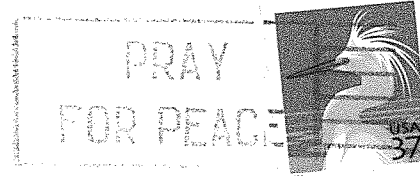
Arrive anytime after 5, dinner starts at 5:30, the compilation will be about 6:45.

Directions: Drive north on Old Redwood Hwy to Wikiup Dr. Turn Right.

Drive east on Wikiup Dr .3 miles to Las Casitas.

Turn right on Las Casitas. Immediately take the first (sharp) left (still Las Casitas). Park on left. The clubhouse is on the corner to your right. Enter through gate (pool will be in front of you.) Meeting room is on the right.

**Kite Tales  
1653 Arroyo Sierra Way  
Santa Rosa CA 95405**



**Dec. 2004, Jan. 2005**



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