

KITE TALES

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
VOL. 3-N^o6 SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA MAY 1969

MAY MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the R.R.O.S. will convene at 8:00 P.M. in Room 112 of the Charles Darwin Hall of Science, Sonoma State College, on Thursday, May 8.

The election of officers will be held. The following slate of candidates is offered by the Nominating Committee:

for President.....Peter Leveque
for Vice-President.....Baron McLean
for Treasurer.....Dr. Benj. D. Parmeter
for Recording-Secretary.....Dorothy Ratcliff
for Corresponding-Secretary.....Perry Shean

A feature of the evening will be the showing of a color film produced by the Sierra Club, "No Room For Wilderness".

MAY FIELD TRIP

A return to the justly popular Ida Clayton Road and its environs will be made on Sunday, May 18. It is always the scene of interesting birding. It is hoped the the Black-chinned Sparrows, which appeared unexpectedly last year, may have returned. On our previous trips there, we have recorded a grand total of 91 species. The party will leave from the Mark West Springs Resort at 9 A.M. Those coming from the east via Calistoga and Porter Creek Roads might prefer to join the group at the junction of Porter Creek and Franz Valley Roads, thereby saving some retracing of mileage.

FROM THE APRIL MEETING

"Often seen and yet unseen" could well have summed up the state of affairs on the Farallon Islands with regard to birding. Its great potential was quite unrealized until the island watch project of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory was initiated. The story of its astounding results was revealed in a fascinating account by John Smail, a staff member of the P.R.B.O. Our members were delighted by his presentation.

Our thanks to Dorothy Ratcliff for the refreshments following the program.

ERIC SPALDING MEMORIAL DEDICATED

A substantial turnout of RROS members and guests was on hand Sunday, April 27 at the Audubon Canyon Ranch, Bolinas, for the unveiling and dedication of the Eric Spalding Memorial.

Permanently housed is a series of large Photo-panels illustrating the courtship and nesting of Great Blue Herons and American Egrets at the

Canyon Ranch. There is an appropriate sign in conjunction designating the presentation of the display by the Redwood Region Ornithological Society.

It is gratifying that the project has reached such a successful climax.

APRIL FIELD TRIPS

Our "offshore" trip was hardly that as high winds on April 19 made it unsafe to continue seaward, so a hasty return from just outside Bodega Head was made and the party birded shorewise as far as Duncan Mills on the Russian River. An unusually abundant list resulted and 111 species were recorded. THE highlight of the list was a single Rock Sandpiper in fine breeding plumage located among the more drab Surfbirds. The latter, however, were also in breeding dress and much more colorful than they most often are seen by us in this vicinity. The species had tough competition indeed as is attested by the presence on our list of such species as the Golden Eagle and Peregrine Falcon. In spite of the strong winds on the ocean, conditions along the coast were very pleasant and the party quite thoroughly enjoyed its many finds.

The outing to the Laguna on the following day, April 20, turned up 81 species and the two lists yielded a combined total of 142 species. Yes, we do enjoy fine birding in Sonoma County! On this later date the "best" bird was another shorebird, a Lesser Yellowlegs which was located among the more numerous Greater. One wonders how a Killdeer can be successful with a brood of eggs in a roadway in a very active cow pasture! Such was the case, and we wish the bird good luck. Some exceptionally fine views of a singing, beautiful male MacGillivray Warbler were had by the few who birded at Bolander's after the rest had left.

In this combined list the unmarked species were seen only at the coast, those with a * only at the Laguna, and those with # were seen in both areas.

	Red-necked Grebe	
(Common Loon	Scaup, sp?	#Killdeer
Arctic Loon	Bufflehead	#Black-bellied Plover
Red-throated Loon	White-winged Scoter	Surfbird
Horned Grebe	Surf Scoter	Ruddy Turnstone
Eared Grebe	Common Scoter	Black Turnstone
Western Grebe	Ruddy Duck	*Common Snipe
#Pied-billed Grebe	Red-breasted Merganser	Whimbrel
Double-crested Cormorant	#Turkey Vulture	Spotted Sandpiper
Brandt Cormorant	#White-tailed Kite	Willet
Pelagic Cormorant	#Red-tailed Hawk	*Greater Yellowlegs
#Great Blue Heron	*Red-shouldered Hawk	*Lesser Yellowlegs
*Green Heron	Golden Eagle	Rock Sandpiper
*Common Egret	Marsh Hawk	#Least Sandpiper
#Snowy Egret	Osprey	Dunlin
#Black-crowned Night Heron	Peregrine Falcon	Short-billed Dowitcher
*American Bittern	*Sparrow Hawk	*Long-billed Dowitcher
Black Brant	#California Quail	Western Sandpiper
#Mallard	*Ring-necked Pheasant	Marbled Godwit
*Pintail	Virginia Rail	Sanderling
*Cinnamon Teal	#American Coot	Glaucous-winged Gull
#Wood Duck	Black Oystercatcher	Western Gull
	Semi-palmated Plover	Herring Gull

#California Gull	#Tree Swallow	#Orange-crowned Warbler
Ring-billed Gull	#Barn Swallow	#Audubon Warbler
Mew Gull	#Cliff Swallow	*Yellow Warbler
Bonaparte Gull	Steller Jay	*MacGillivray Warbler
Caspian Tern	#Scrub Jay	*Yellowthroat
Common Murre	Common Raven	#Wilson Warbler
Pigeon Guillemot	*Common Crow	#House Sparrow
Band-tailed Pigeon	#Chestnut-backed	#Western Meadowlark
#Mourning Dove	Chickadee	#Red-winged Blackbird
Great Horned Owl	*Plain Titmouse	*Bullock Oriole
Vaux Swift	#Common Bushtit	#Brewer Blackbird
#Anna Hummingbird	*White-breasted Nuthatch	#Brown-headed Cowbird
#Allen Hummingbird	#Brown Creeper	*Black-headed Grosbeak
#Belted Kingfisher	#Wrentit	Purple Finch
#Red-shafted Flicker	Winter Wren	#House Finch
*Acorn Woodpecker	#Bewick Wren	Pine Siskin
Hairy Woodpecker	#Long-billed Marsh Wren	#American Goldfinch
*Downy Woodpecker	Rock Wren	*Lesser Goldfinch
*Nuttall Woodpecker	*Mockingbird	#Rufous-sided Towhee
*Western Kingbird	*California Thrasher	*Brown Towhee
*Ash-throated Flycatcher	#American Robin	Savannah Sparrow
#Black Phoebe	Hermit Thrush	#Oregon Junco
#Western Flycatcher	*Water Pipit	#White-crowned Sparrow
Horned Lark	#Loggerhead Shrike	#Golden-crowned Sparrow
#Violet-green Swallow	Starling	#Song Sparrow
	Hutton Vireo	
	*Warbling Vireo	

I should like to take this opportunity to wish the incoming officers every success and much satisfaction in their posts. With special regard for the duties ahead of Perry Shean, may I ask you to provide him the information he will need for the "KITE TALES" as early as possible? It will be a great help to him. May he enjoy it as much as I have.

G.L. Bolander

Handwritten notes:
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