

KITE TALES

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER 1970

NOVEMBER MEETING WILL FEATURE ALICE ACKLEY.....

The November meeting of the RROS will be held on Thursday, Nov. 12 in Room 221 of the Darwin Hall of Science at Sonoma State College. The program will begin at 8 p.m. and we shall be entertained by Mrs. Ackley's slides and account of BIRDS AND FLOWERS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA. We remember with pleasure her presentation two years ago. New slides are constantly being added to her top quality collection so our anticipation is keen. Guests, as always, are welcome. Dorothy Ratcliff has volunteered refreshments. Might you for December?

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS.....

NOVEMBER 21 & 22. Graylodge Refuge near Gridley. Meet at the bird observers parking lot at 10 a.m. and take the tour together. Bring a bag lunch. Sunday, the 22nd, will be planned then. May be to Sacramento Refuge or wherever. Motel information will be available at November meeting. The Butte Road from Colusa to Graylodge provides good en-route birding.

DECEMBER 12. Saturday. Meet at town of BODEGA (NOT at Bodega Bay!) at 9 a.m. Moon Creek Road, Doran Park, Bodega Lagoon, the coast, etc. Leader, Stafford.

January 9. Crystal Springs Reservoir, Half Moon Bay. February 13, Thornton and delta area. March 20, Laguna de Santa Rosa. April 17, Butts Canyon and Lake Hennessey.

CHRISTMAS COUNTS.....

RROS COUNT Sunday Dec. 27. Check with Baron at next meeting for preferred area. Report session will be held at the McLean's 1002 Danbeck (one block up the hill from the Franklin Clubhouse). Contact Baron about participating.

POINT REYES COUNT Saturday Jan. 2. Contact Jack Guggolz about this one. One of the best counts in the nation. Let's help keep it that way.

WESTERN SONOMA COUNTY COUNT Saturday Dec. 26. Madrone Audubon will appreciate your help in this potentially top ranking area. Baron is doing this one also.

SAN PABLO BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE is now in existence. NATURE CONSERVANCY had a big part in its beginning by their purchase of Tubbs Island. It has received a Max Fleischman grant of \$200,000 to complete the purchase.

The proposed South Bay Refuge is still bogged down and greatly imperiled by business and development interests. This word from Paul Covel. He also says that a "Committee of Two Million" has been formed in northern California to save the wild rivers of the state's northwest corner, i.e. Trinity, Klamath, and others. Their working address is, 760 Market St., Suite 1032, San Francisco 94102. Drop in and see their exhibits. Better yet, leave a check!

(Please use the last page parking permit when you attend the meeting)

PAST-PRESIDENT ARNOLD TO BE HONORED.....

The November meeting will be dedicated to Dr. John Arnold who served in the years 1965-66 as our fourth president. He was Corresponding Secretary for the RROS through its first two years of existence and then served a year as Vice-president.

Named officially John Ronald, in honor of an Episcopal Bishop who was much admired by his family, Jack was born in Hanford, California on June 29, 1910. His family moved to Riverbank when he was five. This charming small town on the San Joaquin River was an interesting place for a boy who liked the out of doors. Later the family moved to Selma where his father operated his own drug store for many years. Jack graduated from Selma High School and gives credit to his science teacher for his early enthusiasm for biology and for his decision to enter the field of teaching. He received his A.B. from Fresno State College in 1932, an M.A. from U.C. at Berkeley in 1934, and was granted his Ph. D. at Cornell University in 1938. It was in the field of ornithology.

Like many products of the depression era, Jack has had a wide work experience. As a boy he sold items and cleaned counters and cases in his dad's drug store. One summer he leased the soda fountain and eked out a meager profit on sodas and sundaes, all the while concocting hitherto unknown goodies! Financing his education, he, at one time or another, sold Realsilk hosiery, hashed for a college club, was sandwich and salad man at a Cornell coffee shop, was an assistant to a zoology professor, an assistant in the Bureau of Entomology, and worked on a nature study project in New England under a Cornell Fellowship.

He taught three years at Coalinga High School, while working summers as a Ranger-Naturalist at Grand Canyon National Park. At one time, when the funds were delayed he hired on as a pick-and-shovel man with a ditch digging crew. He enjoyed the work (it "trimmed his figure") and also his fellow workers who were American Indians. He found them very jolly and with a sense of humor.

He became a Zoology Professor at Stockton College (now San Joaquin Delta College) and taught courses at the University of Pacific both in Stockton and at their marine laboratory at Dillon Beach. Later he became Dean of Instruction at Stockton College. While there he also worked as Entomologist and as Consultant to the Lodi and the Stockton Mosquito Abatement Districts.

He went to the new Sonoma State College in 1961 to establish the Division of Natural Sciences, of which he was Chairman for several years, and to work diligently on a building program for the Division. He is, of course, now active as Professor of Biology at Sonoma State College.

Through his mother's side of the family, Jack is a member of that "rara avis" group, third generation native Californians. His maternal grandfather built the courthouse in Visalia. The building is still standing in that community.

He is a member of a family interested in the natural sciences. His father-in-law, the late John G. Tyler of Fresno, was a lifelong ornithologist and was a past-president of the Cooper Ornithological Society. His brother-in-law is an amateur entomologist, and he has a cousin who is teaching ornithology at the University of Colorado.

Jack is a Fellow of the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. His hobbies are nature photography and fishing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Since the RROS is a contributing member of the center, located at 211 Santa Rosa Ave., Santa Rosa, it would be helpful if some of the center's volunteers could come from the RROS. The center is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday but would like to maintain longer hours. It is currently attempting to find volunteers to work on Saturdays and on Thursday evenings.

Keeping the office open at the center is an interesting, easy job. There is a log kept by every volunteer into which are entered all phone calls, visitors, questions, material sold. A volunteer needn't be an "expert" in any area because many questions that are phoned in can be answered by material easily available in the office. If a question can't be answered by the volunteer, it is simply referred to someone else through the log.

If you are available to work a few hours or more a month, please contact the Environmental Center (545-2196). They need our help.

HERE AND THERE...MOSTLY "THERE" WITH DOROTHY AND JEAN

Dorothy Ratcliff and Jean Bishop had a tremendous birding summer. In their forty days of travel they visited twenty-four states and compiled a trip list of 215 species. Included therein were forty-two life birds for Dorothy and eighty-three for Jean. We shall hear more about the trip directly from the travelers at a future meeting so I'll not attempt a full resume of their observations. The quoted passages below come from a wonderful report which earlier had mentioned such items as: both of the eagles and eleven other hawks; fifteen species of flycatchers; nine different herons; all the swallows; all the tanagers; nine woodpeckers; and many, many more.

"The Carolina wren, nesting in my cousin's garage in Pa., and short-billed marsh wrens at Bombay Hook, Del. were new to us.

"In Palo Duro Canyon, Texas, we saw our first bobwhites and our first scaled quails. Near here we saw our first scissor-tailed flycatchers. Here were our first golden-fronted and red-headed woodpeckers. And here we first saw the Mississippi kite.

"At Pawnee Site near Nunn, Colo. we saw lark buntings in great numbers, many feeding young, horned larks with young, McCowen's longspurs, chestnut-collared longspurs, ferruginous hawks, and a marsh hawk, and two mountain plover.

"At Dinosaur National Monument we watched western kingbirds feeding young, nighthawks hawking for insects, Bullock's oriole with young, a sage thrasher. White-tailed prairie dogs have a colony here.

"Our last big stopping place was Bear River Refuge, Brigham City, Utah and here we saw cinnamon teal, shovelers, gadwall, pintail, Canada geese, snowy egrets, white-faced ibis, snowy plovers, Wilson's phalaropes, yellow-headed blackbirds, Forster's and black terns, Calif., ring-billed, and Franklin's gulls, coots, western grebes, avocets, stilts.

"We picked up two new birds on our way home from there, the black-throated sparrow and several rough-legged hawks."

OCTOBER OUTINGS.....

On the 11th of October the good craft FINBACK sailed out of Bodega harbor and disappeared into the seaward fog with a dozen stalwart birders aboard. Birding prospects seemed to be not much brighter than the gloom of the surrounding mists, but the general opinion was, "Let's give it a whirl!" It proved to be a salutary decision as the fog lifted sufficiently to allow a full mile of visibility and the light was good from all angles. The very first shearwater seen was a New Zealand and several others were seen at close ranges later. The more numerous Sooty Shearwaters were themselves outnumbered by the Pink-footeds. Murres were the most common alcid, as always. Rhinoceros Auklets were noted rather frequently and nearby sightings were had on a couple of occasions. The Cassin Auklets were not only less numerous but also far less obliging and it was not until rather late in the trip that a satisfactory close-up sighting could be made. Marbled Murrelets were finally located close inshore just north of the mouth of the American Estero. There were several individuals. Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers completed the list of the more pelagic birds although there were 52 species seen from the moving boat. An unidentified bird (likely a siskin) circled about the boat as it was on its outward course and a Starling passed by at about eight miles offshore. The star of the day, however, was a little greenish warbler that escorted the boat for a considerable period of time as it was some 12 miles off the shore line. It finally made several landings on our boat (one of those on Dr. Arnold's sandwich, just as he was about to take a bite!). It was identified and it's not very often that one in California has to worry about stepping on a Palm Warbler!

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| Common Loon | Turkey Vulture | Western Gull |
| Red-throated Loon | Marsh Hawk | California Gull |
| Horned Grebe | American Coot | Ring-billed Gull |
| Western Grebe | Black Oystercatcher | Heermann Gull |
| Pied-billed Grebe | Snowy Plover | Black-legged Kittiwake |
| Pink-footed Shearwater | Killdeer | ? Tern (small) |
| New Zealand Shearwater | Black-bellied Plover | Common Murre |
| Sooty Shearwater | Black Turnstone | Pigeon Guillemot |
| Brown Pelican | Ruddy Turnstone | Marbled Murrelet |
| Double-crested Cormorant | Willet | Cassin Auklet |
| Brandt Cormorant | Dunlin | Rhinoceros Auklet |
| Pelagic Cormorant | Short-billed Dowitcher | Belted Kingfisher |
| Great Blue Heron | Western Sandpiper | Water Pipit |
| Black-crowned Night Heron | Marbled Godwit | Starling |
| Greater ? Scaup | Sanderling | Palm Warbler |
| White-winged Scoter | Pomarine Jaeger | Red-winged Blackbird |
| Surf Scoter | Parasitic Jaeger | White-crowned Sparrow |
| | Glaucous-winged Gull | |

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The birding potential of the Tomales Bay-Point Reyes area was well revealed to the twenty-two birders who gathered under the last bits of a dense morning fog at Point Reyes Station. Even though duck hunters occupied the Olema marsh many species were noted there before we moved on down to the head of Tomales Bay. There the high tidal waters forced the shorebirds into the salicornia growth and made their identification difficult. So did the many duck hunters! Lunch was eaten on the ridge above Tomales State Park. As the bird list grew, the attendance dwindled until finally, by mid-afternoon, only McLean and Bolander were still at it. This was unfortunate in that the bird of the trip was not found until late in the afternoon. It was a fine male European Widgeon in the midst of a large number of American Widgeon on the smaller fresh water pond below Muddy Hollow. This is the first sighting of the species on an RR0S outing and is the 267th species for our records. A single male Redhead on Limantour

Lagoon added a welcome species to our trip list. The final total of 115 is a new club high except for the Christmas counts.

Common Loon	Killdeer	Brown Creeper
Arctic Loon	Black-bellied Plover	Wrentit
Red-throated Loon	Black Turnstone	Winter Wren
Horned Grebe	Common Snipe	Bewick Wren
Western Grebe	Willet	Long-billed Marsh Wren
Pied-billed Grebe	Greater Yellowlegs	American Robin
Brown Pelican	Least Sandpiper	Hermit Thrush
Double-crested Cormorant	Dunlin	Western Bluebird
Brandt Cormorant	Short-billed Dowitcher	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Pelagic Cormorant	Long-billed Dowitcher	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Great Blue Heron	Western Sandpiper	Water Pipit
Green Heron	Marbled Godwit	Cedar Waxwing
Common Egret	Sanderling	Loggerhead Shrike
Snowy Egret	Glaucous-winged Gull	Starling
Mallard	Western Gull	Hutton Vireo
Pintail	Herring Gull	Audubon Warbler
Green-winged Teal	California Gull	Townsend Warbler
Cinnamon Teal	Ring-billed Gull	Yellowthroat
European Widgeon	Bonaparte Gull	House Sparrow
American Widgeon	Heermann Gull	Western Meadowlark
Redhead	Mourning Dove	Red-winged Blackbird
Lesser Scaup	Anna Hummingbird	Tri-colored Blackbird
White-winged Scoter	Belted Kingfisher	Brewer Blackbird
Surf Scoter	Red-shafted Flicker	Brown-headed Cowbird
Common Scoter	Acorn Woodpecker	Purple Finch
Ruddy Duck	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	House Finch
Turkey Vulture	Hairy Woodpecker	Pine Siskin
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Black Phoebe	American Goldfinch
Cooper Hawk	Say Phoebe	Lesser Goldfinch
Red-tailed Hawk	Horned Lark	Rufous-sided Towhee
Red-shouldered Hawk	Violet-green Swallow	Brown Towhee
Marsh Hawk	Steller Jay	Savannah Sparrow
Sparrow Hawk	Scrub Jay	Lark Sparrow
California Quail	Common Raven	Oregon Junco
Virginia Rail	Common Crow	White-crowned Sparrow
American Coot	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Semipalmated Plover	Plain Titmouse	Fox Sparrow
Snowy Plover	Common Bushtit	Song Sparrow
	Pygmy Nuthatch	

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