

# KITE TALES

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

VOL. 5 ~ No 4

SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA

DECEMBER 1970

DR. JOHN ARNOLD WILL BE OUR SPEAKER.....

The December meeting of the RROS will be held on Thursday, the 12th in Room 221 of the Darwin Hall of Sciences at Sonoma State College. The program, at 8 PM, will feature Dr. John R. Arnold of Sonoma State College. He will relate to us some of his experiences as A NATURALIST IN CHIAPAS and his slides will illustrate the narration. Dr. Arnold, with the assistance of Craig Moe, who is a student at the college, collected mammals for Dr. Goldsmith of the Hooper Foundation. It was part of a study on tropical diseases.

Refreshments following the meeting through the kindness of Linda Hanes.

WE SHALL HONOR PAST-PRESIDENT BENJAMIN D. PARMETER, M.D.

This month's meeting will be dedicated to another of our worthy past-presidents. This time it will be Dr. Benjamin Parmeter, more popularly known as "Mike", who served a term as president in 1966-67.

A true, local Californian, Mike was born in Santa Rosa and can boast of a grandfather who was born at Bodega Bay! We're gratified that Mike has chosen to remain in the area.

He is a graduate of Analy High School, Sebastopol, and received his college and medical schooling from the University of California. He interned at the Highland Hospital in Oakland. While there, he met a singularly attractive young nurse who soon became his wife. Then followed a period in Korea as a medical officer with the U.S. Army. He ended his army service at Fort Carson, Colorado. They were both good spots for a birder, he says. He then spent two years in residence at the Santa Rosa General (then) Hospital and entered private practice in Cotati. At the present time he is practicing in Napa.

Mike is a very astute and competent observer and has truly developed the fine ear which is so essential to the accomplished field man. He maintains excellent records of what he observes and has made many valuable contributions to our sum of knowledge of the local avian picture.

We salute a birder's birdman.

DECEMBER AND JANUARY FIELD TRIPS.....

DECEMBER 12, a Saturday. LYNN STAFFORD will lead an outing to the Bodega coastal region. We shall start at the town of BODEGA (note that this is NOT Bodega Bay!) at 9 AM and spend an hour along the Salmon Creek Road for some interior birding. This has been one of the most productive territories in the Western Sonoma County Christmas Count. From there the group will visit Bran Park, Bodega Lagoon, the headland, Salmon Creek (village, beach and ponds), and on up the coast through the State Park areas to Goat Rock. Bring what field guides you need, optical equipment, lunch, a guest or two, and be prepared for any possible weather. The lunch stop will be dependent on it and/or our progress.

The town of Bodega lies  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile north of Highway 1 on Bodega Highway. A charge of 50c is made for each car entering Doran Park. Participants may join or leave the group whenever or wherever they choose.

JANUARY 9, a Saturday. This will be a 'first', a new trip for the RROS. We shall meet at 9:30 AM at Pulgas Temple on La Canada. Approach from the Bay-shore, U.S. 101, to Woodside by taking Hiway 84 at Redwood City. La Canada, north from Woodside, will take you to the Water Temple. There are several other alternate routes possible, such as, through Belmont to La Canada then south, or to come south on 280 from San Francisco leaving it at the junction of Freeway 92 to get to La Canada. Consult your map. Allow about two hours from Santa Rosa. The main birding will be done in the Crystal Springs Lakes area with a possible extension to Half Moon Bay. Gather up your usual bit of paraphernalia, lunch, and guests. Dr. Neil Dickinson, who is the compiler for the Christmas count in that area by the Sequoia Audubon Society, will be our leader. Plan ahead. Help us pioneer this new venture.

Outings coming up.....

- Saturday, February 13, vicinity of Thornton. Leader; Guggolz.
- Saturday, March 20, Laguna de Santa Rosa. Leader; Bolander.
- Saturday, April 17, Butts Canyon-Lake Hennessey. Leader; McLean.

CHRISTMAS COUNTS WILL SOON BE HERE.....

Our own RROS Santa Rosa Area Count on SUNDAY, December 27 is our special responsibility. TWELVE of our members have not responded to the letter sent pm by the compiler, Baron McLean. Please facilitate his planning by doing so, one way or the other, at once (if not sooner). Maps and territory descriptions are going out as fast as confirmations are received. One complete section has no coverage as yet and more "early owlers" are needed.

Hot soup, sandwiches, and drinks are being provided by a volunteer committee at the McLean home, 1002 Danbeck, just a block off Franklin Avenue opposite the Franklin Clubhouse. One block up Gay Street, the house is on the corner. Telephone 545-0851. Soup's on from 5 PM. Teams may check out on the large species chart at any time. All reports are due by 8 PM. Come for the full report if you can.

Help for the best coverage ever. We've seen a total of 174 species for all of the past counts. Let's surpass the single high of 134 set last year. But remember, the count is the thing, not just the number of species! We've always had a 'quality' count. Let's keep it that way.

OTHER COUNTS.....

- (1) Saturday, December 26. Western Sonoma County, by Madrone Audubon Society. Baron McLean, compiler. More observers are needed. Good bidding area. Reports accepted at Doyle Park School, Sonoma Avenue, Santa Rosa from 5 to 8 PM. Food and fellowship.
- (2) Tuesday, December 22. Angwin Area Count, by Howell Mountain Ornithological Society. Wayne Tillay, compiler. Several of them are giving us a hand. Can you return the kindness?
- (3) Saturday, January 2. Point Reyes Count, by Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Marin Audubon Society, and Golden Gate Audubon Society. May reach the 200 mark on this one. Co-compilers, Jack Guggolz and Jon Winters. They can still use some observers.

- (4) Santa Cruz Area, by Santa Cruz Bird Club will hold the count on Tuesday, December 29. Viloa Anderson could use your help on this one.
- (5) Sunday, January 3. Oakland area. Contact Eugene Mann, 2131 Rose St. in Berkeley (848-8982)

REMEMBER....the count period is from Tuesday, December 22 through Sunday, January 3. Report, by January 5, any species seen in the area during the count period which were not found on count day. The report must be received in New York by January 15 or,....forget it!

SUPPORT THOSE WHO FIGHT FOR WHAT WE VALUE.....

The RROS should certainly support in as active a manner as possible the stated priorities of the National Audubon Society for 1971. They are:

1. Eliminate the use of DDT, dieldrin, aldrin, endrin, toxaphene, and other persistent (long-lasting) organo-chlorine pesticides that pollute the environment, poison food-chains, and endanger many species of wildlife.
2. Protect the Public Land resources of the United States. Prepare to meet and to turn back the expected raids by exploitive interests who will try to gain special advantages from the 1970 report of the Public Land Law Review Commission.
3. Illuminate and resist "stream channelization"; a destructive engineering fad, supported by federal funds, that threatens the ecology and beauty of scores of natural streams in the United States.
4. Seek federal protection for the hawks and owls.
5. Seek reform and reduction of the federal program that results in the widespread, ecologically unsound, and generally unnecessary, poisoning and trapping of carnivorous wild animals.

WE, TOO, NEED YOUR SUPPORT.....

The Editor notices that several who are receiving their KITE TALES have not yet submitted their 70-71 dues. It is surely an oversight but one that we would appreciate some action on. We're truly a non-profit organization and have no cushion to fall back on. Our dues are nominal but oh, SO necessary to our operation.

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP(all members of one household)	\$4.50
SINGLE "	\$3.00
STUDENT " (high school to graduate school)	\$1.00
JUNIOR " (those not yet in high school)	\$ .50

KITE TAILS sent to all members and for one year to non-members who assist in the RROS Christmas Count. Subscription rate for other non-members, \$2.00. Issued monthly, May-to September to May.

Our treasurer reports that we have a total of \$109.49 on hand on November 18. That's a mighty small amount to squeeze by on until summer.

NOVEMBER FIELD TRIP TO THE VALLEY.....

On the 21st of November a very fine turnout of RROS birders gathered to enjoy a day's birding at the Graylodge Refuge near Gridley. We were warmly greeted by the always affable John Cowan, Director of the refuge. Two other birding groups were also in the refuge on that date and many other "freelance" observers were encountered. Our ranks are gaining strength. The weather was cool, overcast but not uncomfortable.

Ross Geese and Sandhill Cranes were the most hoped for objectives and they each came through in grand style. Several of the many flocks of white geese were made up almost completely of the "little ones". Many cranes were seen and their impressive silhouettes and cries were present throughout the day. The remainder of the species observed, while both enjoyable and impressive, were more or less routine except, perhaps, for the four Lesser Yellowlegs noted at one place. Excellent comparisons of sizes with Dowitchers and Killdeer fixed their identification to the satisfaction of all.

Sightings by members before reaching the refuge itself held some interesting items. The party coming up from the Eastbay were rewarded by good views of a fine, "full-plumaged" male Yellow-shafted Flicker and many Vesper Sparrows and a Canyon Wren were noted from Hiway 20 just before it left the hills to enter the valley. (If you're interested, those sparrows are regular there.) A Rock Wren was also sighted, as it usually is, along the West Butte Road.

On the following day Baron McLean and Tom Schulenberg found a MacGillivray and two Black-throated Gray Warblers still lingering in Bidwell Park at Chico. There they also sighted a more seasonal Slate-colored Junco. In the small pond at the entrance to the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge they saw a male European Widgeon and also a Wood Duck. That refuge was also visited by the Tuckers on that day and they had sightings of White Pelicans and a Rough-legged Hawk. They also encountered Goldeneye and Redhead on the Feather R. near Oroville. (They also report a male Harlequin Duck on Richardson Bay on the 29th of November. There have been other sightings of the bird at that point so it pays to look there should you get the chance.)

Species noted within the Graylodge Refuge.....

Pied-billed Grebe	Sparrow Hawk	Mockingbird
Great Blue Heron	Ring-necked Pheasant	American Robin
Common Egret	Sandhill Crane	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Black-crowned Night Heron	Virginia Rail	Water Pipit
American Bittern	Common Gallinule	Loggerhead Shrike
Whistling Swan	American Coot	Starling
Canada Goose	Killdeer	Audubon Warbler
White-fronted Goose	Common Snipe	Yellowthroat
Snow Goose	Long-billed Curlew	Western Meadowlark
Ross Goose	Greater Yellowlegs	Red-winged Blackbird
Mallard	Lesser Yellowlegs	Brewer Blackbird
Gadwall	Least Sandpiper	Brown-headed Cowbird
Pintail	Dunlin	House Finch
Green-winged Teal	Long-billed Dowitcher	American Goldfinch
Cinnamon Teal	Ring-billed Gull	Lesser Goldfinch
American Widgeon	Mourning Dove	Rufous-sided Towhee
Shoveler	Belted Kingfisher	Brown Towhee
Ruddy Duck	Red-shafted Flicker	Savannah Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Downy Woodpecker	Oregon Junco
White-tailed Kite	Nuttall Woodpecker	White-crowned Sparrow
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Black Phoebe	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Cooper Hawk	Horned Lark	Fox Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Common Bushtit	Lincoln Sparrow
Marsh Hawk	House Wren	Song Sparrow
	Long-billed Marsh Wren	

73 species

We are grateful for the response to our request for summer sightings. This, verbatim, is from Jack Guggolz:

As to what I've seen this summer--- I made a trip to Colorado with stops at the Stillwater Marshes near Fallon, Nevada and the Colorado National Monument on the way there and at Rocky Mountain National Park and the Bear River Marshes on the way back.

Around Ft. Collins I saw such nice things as Catbird, Redstart, Eastern Bluejay, Mountain Plover, Chestnut-collared and McGowan's Longspurs, and Lark Buntings. The last three were new birds to me. Then there were also Blue-winged Teal, Franklin's Gull, both Eastern and Western Kingbirds in the same area and another new one, Virginia's Warbler.

A short sidetrip to the Stillwater Refuge produced six kinds of ducks and a dozen or so other things. The Ibis nesting area was off limits because of a nesting study. Colorado National Mon. produced a Prairie Falcon, lots of w-t. Swifts, a Townsend's Solitaire, a Chukar, Black-throated Sparrows, and lots of others, but I missed the Gray Vireos that live there. Saw Blue Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings between Ft. Collins & Estes Park. Then, in the Rocky Mt. Natl. Park, I found Broad-tailed Hummingbirds, Gray Jay, and Brown-headed Rosy Finch but couldn't find the Ptarmigan. The Bear River Marshes at Salt Lake were fascinating but there was nothing really outstanding in the line of rarities.

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**PARKING REMINDER**

Detach the next page and use as directed for on-campus parking Thursday