

KITE TALES

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
VOL. 5 ~ N^o 6 SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA FEBRUARY 1971

'COOL' M^cGREW BREAKS THE ICE

The regular meeting of the Redwood Region Ornithological Society will be held on Thursday, February 11, in Room 221 of the Charles Darwin Hall of Science at Sonoma State College. The program will begin at 8 PM. A short business meeting and a social session will follow.

The program will be presented by Dr. Herbert E. McGrew who is currently serving as a psychiatrist at the Napa State Hospital. He is a graduate of McGill University in Montreal and roomed with our own Dr. Parmeter as they interned together at the Highland Hospital in Oakland. Dr. McGrew will tell us of his experiences and observations while serving with the U.S. Coast Guard aboard the ice-breaker 'East Wind' in both Arctic and Antarctic waters during 1959-60. His own slides will illustrate.

LET'S GO TO THORNTON

The February field trip will be held on Saturday, the 13th, under the able leadership of Jack Guggolz. It will be a return to the popular Thornton area with its promise of cranes, geese, and other central valley specialties which rarely reach our vicinity. The group will assemble at Terminus on Highway 12 at 9 AM. Jack likes early starts and asks those who feel likewise to start with him from Fairfield at 7 AM. Warm dress will probably be in order. Bring your lunch, your friends, and your enthusiasm to help to find that "good one".

SCREEN-TOUR FILM THIS SATURDAY

The film will be shown this Saturday, February 6, in the Burbank Memorial Auditorium of the Santa Rosa Junior College. Dr. John D. Bulger will narrate his own film, "Scandinavian Saga" which beautifully presents that area and much of its wildlife. It will begin at 7:30 PM.

The March film will be a different one than that announced earlier due to a snag in programming. The film made by Burdette White, "On the Trail of Feathered Jewels" will be shown instead. It offers rewarding footage for all who love birds, music, entomology, or environmental conservation.

A couple of corrections to the membership roster which was issued with the January KITE TALES are in order. Our good Recording Secretary's name is Ratcliff, not Radcliff, as shown; it is Dr. Herbert E. McGrew, not Harold; and 'Faye' Beeman's phone number is 545-1088. If there are other corrections which should be noted, will you please let us know?

Please submit a written record of any field observations made orally at our meetings. It makes for better accuracy and eases the secretary's job.

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY MINUTES FOR 1970-71.

May 14, 1970

The regular meeting of the RROS was called to order on the evening of May 14 by the president, Baron McLean.

Mike Parmeter gave a report on the development of an environmental studies center at 211 Santa Rosa Ave., Santa Rosa. This activity is being sponsored by COAST and SCOPE, who have taken a two-year lease on the building. It is hoped that the center will be used by all nature groups in Sonoma County. The center offers facilities for group use, literature for group use, and expertise. They need interested groups and individuals to help defray the expenses of the facility.

Gordon Bolander moved that we participate in the use of the environmental center by sending \$5 per month. Mike Parmeter seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mrs. Eleanor Guilford moved that we endorse the appointment of Mrs. Lois Bolander to the Air Pollution Control Board of Sonoma County. Mrs. Linda Hanes seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Mrs. Hanes is to write letters indicating such support to the appropriate members of the board.

It was announced the the Dep't. of the Interior is trying to acquire land south of the Black Point Cut-off Road to be used as a wild-life refuge. Members of this group are urged to write to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors and ask them to support the Interior Dep't. in this project.

Clerin Zumwalt of Audubon Canyon Ranch presented an interesting talk on California wildflowers and illustrated his talk with excellent slides.

The following observations were reported:

- Gordon Bolander- Black-chinned Sparrow at Ida Clayton Road. Also many Crossbills were seen this year, the latest to date on May 13 at Timber Hill.
- C. Tucker- Cedar Waxwings on May 14.
- J. Arnold- Yellow-hilled Loon, Bodega Bay- May 10. Lazuli Buntings and nesting Warbling Vireos in the foothills.
- B. McLean- Yellow-breasted Chat- Spring Lake.
- N. McDuffee- Yellowthroat
- F. Beeman- Hooded Oriole, Yellow-headed Blackbird- Lake County-May 3 & 14
- Dan Shook- Wandering Tattler- Bodega Marine Lab.-May 14

Meeting adjourned.

Dorothy Ratcliff, Sec'y.

September 10, 1970

The regular meeting of the RROS was held in Darwin Hall of Sonoma State College on Sept. 10, 1970. The meeting was called to order by the president, Baron McLean, at 8:10 PM.

It was announced that tickets are available for the wildlife film series. Persons interested should contact Docia Patchett. The family ticket is \$6 and the regular adult ticket is \$3 for the season.

The annual fall boat trip will leave from Bodega Bay on Oct. 11. Cost is \$10. Members were asked to send their summer observations to Gordon Bolander.

The speaker for October will be Dr. Ronald Branson of Monterey who will tell of his trip to the Galapagos Islands.

Sept. 10, 1970(cont'd)

A letter from Ray McDuffee, Seal Rock, Ore., was read

The evening's speakers, Mr. Andreeson and Mr. Clark of the California Department of Agriculture, were introduced. They spoke of their work in bird control which is sometimes necessary to save the farmers' crops. Those birds most subject to control are the House Finch, Crow, Raven, Magpie, Waxwings, Starlings, Blackbirds, and Horned Larks.

Some slides were shown of the Eric Spaulding* memorial display at Audubon Canyon Ranch. Mrs. Spaulding, our guest of the evening, was presented with a dish garden by the club. It was the purpose of this meeting to honor Eric Spaulding who was instrumental in organizing the group originally and who served as its second president.

The meeting was adjourned.

Dorothy Ratcliff, Sec'y.

(*Eric, now deceased, spelled his name Spalding) Ed.

October 8, 1970

The meeting was called to order by president Baron McLean.

Linda Hanes, corresponding secretary, read a note from Mrs. Jean Spalding thanking the club for making her an honorary member.

Mr. McLean gave a short history of Gordon Bolander as a birder and as the first president of the Redwood Region Ornithological Society when it was organized in 1962. He presented Gordon with a cap with sun-visor to make his birding more enjoyable.

Mike Parmeter, program chairman, introduced his friend and former classmate, Dr. Ronald Branson of Monterey, who gave an interesting illustrated talk on his trip to the Galapagos Islands in 1967. He served as the doctor with a marine study group which traveled on the Stanford University research vessel to those islands.

The off-shore trip from Bodega Bay was announced for this next Sunday.

The next field trip will be to Pt. Reyes where members will meet at the lumberyard at 9:00 AM on Saturday, Oct. 24. Gordon Bolander will be the leader.

There will be a field trip to Graylodge and Sacramento Refuges on Nov. 21 and 22.

Mrs. Alice Ackley will speak at the next meeting. Subject: birds and flowers of the area.

Meeting adjourned.

Dorothy Ratcliff, Sec'y.

November 12, 1970

The regular meeting of the RRROS was held in Darwin Hall at Sonoma State College on November 12, 1970. Meeting was called to order by the president, Baron McLean.

Honor was paid our former president, Dr. John Arnold, our expert on the Corvidae. In a brief talk he suggested that if we have never heard the "whispersong" of the jays given at nesting time we should listen for it.

An interesting talk, accompanied by outstandingly beautiful slides, was given by Mrs. Alice Ackley.

The following up-coming field trips were announced:

Nov. 21 to Graylodge Wildlife Refuge

Nov. 22 to Sacramento Wildlife Refuge

Dec. 12 to Bodega Bay-Salmon Creek area- to be led by Lynn Stafford

January - Crystal Springs

February - Thornton area

March - Santa Rosa Lagoon

The program for December will be a talk by Jack Arnold.

In January D. Ratcliff and J. Bishop will talk about their trip across the U.S.

In February there will be a talk on the Antarctic.

The RRROS Christmas count will be on Dec. 27.

The meeting was adjourned.

Dorothy Ratcliff, Sec'y.

December 10, 1970

The regular meeting of the RR0S was called to order by the president at 8:00 PM on Thursday, Dec. 10.

Dr. B.D. Parmeter was honored as a past-president and was given appropriate gifts.

Dr. John Arnold showed slides and spoke on his work in Chiapas, Mexico where he was involved in research and field work included in a study of the tropical diseases.

Mrs. David Hanes read a letter from Clark Nattkemper stating that highway 12 is to be made into a scenic parkway. After some discussion Mr. Neilsen moved and Dr. Arnold seconded a motion that the RR0S work with the state department of highways in planning the parkway.

Members who have not paid dues were urged to do so.

Lynn Stafford outlined the Dec. 12 field trip to the Bodega Bay-Salmon Creek area.

It was announced that Dr. Dickinson would lead the January trip to Crystal Springs.

Jack Guggolz will lead a trip to the Thornton area in February and Gordon Bolander will be the leader at Santa Rosa lagoon in March.

Plans for the Christmas count on Dec. 26 were reviewed.

A letter from COAST was laid on the table for interested people to read.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20.

Dorothy Ratcliff, Sec'y.

Mike Parmeter reported seeing many Everglade Kites in Mexico.

Lynn Stafford reported approximately 800 Sandhill Cranes in San Luis Obispo County.

Dr. Arnold asked members to notify him of sightings of sea lions and seals that look sick. He advised that one should take care in handling such.

January 14, 1971

The regular meeting of the RR0S was called to order by the president at 8:00 PM on January 14, 1971.

A letter from Nell and Ray McDuffee was read by the president.

The February field trip to the Thornton area was outlined. Details will appear in the next issue of the KITE TALES.

Former president Jack Guggolz was honored and presented, in absentia, with a gift.

The president announced that all former presidents were acting as a committee to nominate officers for the coming year. Gordon Bolander is committee chairman.

The president gave a brief report of the Christmas count.

Several up-coming college courses of possible interest to members were announced.

The March field trip date was announced as March 20 in the hope that the late date would result in finding more species of birds in the area.

The speaker for the February meeting will be Dr. Herbert McGrew. He's to speak on the 'Antarctic Shelf Area'.

The following observations were reported:

Dorothy Ratcliff - Bald Eagle near Lewiston Hatchery between Weaverville and Redding, California.

Baron McLean - Saw-whet Owl on Timber Hill Road, Burrowing Owl on Guerneville Road, and Screech Owl at Sebastopol.

Unfortunately the secretary was unable to record the persons reporting the following observations: (It would help keep our records correct if the members would submit their observations in writing)

Three eagles over the Sonoma State College; Red-necked Grebes at Lake Berryessa; Crossbills, Goshawk, and Peregrine Falcon near the St. Helena area; Rough-legged Hawks near Cotati, Lake Hennessy, and Montezuma Hills.

January 14, 1971 (cont'd)

Jean Bishop and Dorothy Ratcliff showed slides and told of their cross-continental bird-watching trip in the summer of 1970.

Meeting adjourned.

Dorothy Ratcliff, Sec'y.

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JANUARY FIELD TRIP TO SAN MATEO COUNTY.

We have Neil Dickinson and Alice Steele, co-compilers of the Crystal Springs Reservoir Christmas Count to thank for an excellent introduction to that territory for RROS birders. The day was very foggy as it began so we dropped down from the ridge to San Francisco Bay at Coyote Point and explored shore birding. About noon we returned to the ridge and explored San Andreas Lake and Crystal Springs Reservoir. We found 65 Canada Geese and Wood Duck among other woods and water birds. A high concentration of Avocets were the highlight of the bay shore birding. Then we dropped down to the ocean side of the circle and took in Half Moon Bay at Princeton area before heading back toward Santa Rosa. An 82 day plus, perhaps, some more on the way home for different members of the party. Thanks to our guides it was an excellent salvaging of what could have been a dud due to weather, and all who went have a new territory know-how for future birding.

Baron McLean.

Species observed: Common and Red-throated Loon; Red-necked, Horned, Western, and Pied-billed Grebe; Double-crested and Brandt Cormorant; Common Egret; Canada Goose, Mallard, Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead; White-winged, Surf, and Common Scoter; Ruddy Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, Turkey Vulture; Sharp-shinned, Red-tailed, and Sparrow Hawk; California Quail, American Coot; Semi-palmated, and Black-bellied Plover; Killdeer, Surf-bird, Black Turnstone, Common Snipe, Spotted Sandpiper, Willet, Dunlin, Least Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Western Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, American Avocet, Glaucous-winged, Western, Herring, California, Ring-billed, Mew, and Bonaparte Gull; Band-tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Anna Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Black Phoebe, Steller Jay, Scrub Jay, Common Crow, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Wren-tit, Bewick Wren, Mockingbird, Robin, Varied Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Starling, Hutton Vireo, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Brewer Blackbird, Purple Finch, House Finch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Brown Towhee, Oregon Junco, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, and Song Sparrow.

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