

KITE TALES

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
VOL. 5 ~ N^o 7 SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA MARCH 1971

"HAY MUCHOS PAJAROS EN LA SILVA"

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

Our speaker will be Jack Cuppolz who spent some time in southern Mexico last year with that other "super-fan" of Mexican birding, "Mike" Parmeter. The great wealth of endemic species to be found there combined with an extensive array of "easterners" from north of the border assures any western bird-watcher of much to talk about. Personal slides will illustrate.

MARCH MEETING FEATURES FAILING

The meeting is dedicated to another of our fine past-presidents, Robert Failing, in this case. Bob is one of that unobtrusive type which never seems to make a great splash but who is always on hand when needed, always contributing, always dependable, until one finally awakens to the fact that here is a member of the "greats". And a great guy he is. He is one of the original O.O.C. members, a remarkable bird group surviving through the years with its original membership since its high school organization in 1929. He has had a distinguished record of service with the Western Pacific Railroad interrupted only by the more impelling call of military duty. An unexpected development there is that Bob brought his wife, Issabelle, back from Holland. She enthusiastically supports his birding endeavors.

Bob really goes into things "all out". His book bindery, his stone masonry, his gardening (accent on natives), his knowledge of viticulture, and there are others, are all up to standards as high as those lofty goals he sets for himself in birding. We are fortunate to have fallen within his sphere.

SITE OF FIRST FIELD TRIP TO BE REVISITED

The March field trip will be held on Saturday, the 20th, in the Laguna de Santa Rosa area. This flood plain was the site of our very first venture into the field on April 7, 1962. Hopefully we might match or even surpass the 78 species recorded at that time but it is doubtful that we'll repeat the delightful experience of observing three pair of ducks sitting side by side in a little isolated group which was comprised of one pair each of our three native teal! The earlier date may reveal that some of the summer species seen on that day will not yet have put in an appearance. However it is an opportunity for some pretty fair birding close to home. The main "shoving-off" point will be at the Happy Hour Club House, Hall at Willowside Road at 8:30. Those wishing an earlier start meet at the bridge on Guernville Road near Timber Hill at 7:00. Walking shoes are in order, some of the going may be a bit on the sloppy side, but good coverage can also be obtained without leaving the roads.

AUDUBON SCREEN TOUR THIS COMING SATURDAY, MARCH 6

7:30 PM, SRJC Burbank Memorial Auditorium

Burdette White, a California outstanding in the fields of education, conservation, and photography has compiled a memorable film sure to enhance any nature lover's appreciation of our fascinatingly varied wild heritage.

Since it was the RROS which was responsible for the introduction of the screen tour to Santa Rosa, it seems only just that we continue to support it by attending as many of these fine presentations as we can.

CHANGE OF APRIL MEETING DATE

Our April meeting will be held on the third Thursday of the month rather than on the second. April 15, not on April 18. Dr. Tillay has a program in mind that you really shouldn't miss!

The APRIL FIELD TRIP is set for Saturday, the 17th. Butts Canyon Rd., Lake Hennessey.

The SPECIAL OFF-SHORE TRIP will be held the next day from Bodega Bay. It may be that there are openings left aboard. Contact 'Mike' Parmeter at his home to take advantage of them. 2005 Waverly St., Napa 94558
\$10 per registration... 707-255-6757

THANKS DUE McLEAN FOR CHRISTMAS COUNT WORK

It is well to express our deep appreciation of the fine job that our president, Baron McClean, has done for the past two years as organizer and compiler of our Santa Rosa Count. We should all be aware that it took many hours of hard work to produce the counts which rank among the very best of the inland counts the country over. Let us make sure that the high quality of the effort is maintained. Once again, Baron, many thanks.

FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP

Just let the weatherman know the RROS is on the way and he rolls out the carpet. The only drawback is that his 'carpet' is thick and wet. And lasts until noon! As in January, the first half of the day was more of a 'feel' trip as we groped our way through a dense tule fog. Naturally opportunities for observations were limited and mainly on the vocal side. Not until the noon hour, which found us settled down for a luncheon snack near Thornton, did the shroud tear asunder and reveal to us some of the authors of the overhead calls which had been so near and yet so impossibly far! Then lines and groups of Sandhill Cranes were very much in evidence as they winged their way toward the feeding grounds which were now revealed to them. Other lesser species were duly tabulated as we retraced our morning route under far better viewing conditions. The grand climax came in some stubble fields just north of Highway 12 where an extensive gaggle of geese held our attention for quite a spell. The birds were mainly White-fronted Geese with a scattering of the smaller Canada species, and a half dozen Ross Geese. A partially albino White-fronted Goose caused some temporary excitement before it became apparent what it actually was. In the same field was a large flock of mixed blackbirds and Starlings which included several hundred Yellow-heads.

A rather unique note for the day was that only one species of heron was seen and that was the American Bittern which is so often not recorded.

(Trip list on next page)

Thornton area, February 13, 1971

American Bittern	Common Gallinule	Mockingbird
Whistling Swan	American Coot	American Robin
Canada Goose	Killdeer	Hermit Thrush
White-fronted Goose	Common Snipe	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Ross Goose	Long-billed Curlew	Water Pipit
Mallard	Greater Yellowlegs	Cedar Waxwing
Gadwall	Least ? Sandpiper	Loggerhead Shrike
Pintail	Ring-billed Gull	Starling
Green-winged Teal	Mew Gull	Hutton Vireo
Cinnamon Teal	Mourning Dove	Audubon Warbler
American Widgeon	Great Horned Owl	House Sparrow
Shoveler	Burrowing Owl	Western Meadowlark
Canvasback	Belted Kingfisher	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Bufflehead	Red-shafted Flicker	Red-winged Blackbird
Ruddy Duck	Acorn Woodpecker	Tricolored Blackbird
Turkey Vulture	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Brewer Blackbird
White-tailed Kite	Downy Woodpecker	Brown-headed Cowbird
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Nuttall Woodpecker	Purple Finch
Cooper Hawk	Black Phoebe	House Finch
Red-tailed Hawk	Say Phoebe	American Goldfinch
Red-shouldered Hawk	Horned Lark	Lesser Goldfinch
Rough-legged Hawk	Tree Swallow	Rufous-sided Towhee
Marsh Hawk	Scrub Jay	Brown Towhee
Sparrow Hawk	Common Crow	Savannah Sparrow
California Quail	Plain Titmouse	Oregon Junco
Ring-necked Pheasant	Common Bushtit	White-crowned Sparrow
Sandhill Crane	White-breasted Nuthatch	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Virginia Rail	Wrentit	Fox Sparrow
	Bewick Wren	Lincoln Sparrow
	Long-billed Marsh Wren	Song Sparrow

88 species.

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