

KITE TALES

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

VOL. 5~N^o 8

SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA

APRIL 1971

APRIL "TRIPLE-FEATURE" PROGRAM. April 15. Rm. 221 Darwin Hall. 7:45 PM.
Sonoma State College

1- MAIN FEATURE.....WAYNE TILLAY

8:30-9:30 Lecture/slides. "Birds of California-Louisiana-Florida with species comparisons and audience identification"

Wayne has a PhD from Louisiana State University, has been Associate Professor of Chemistry at Pacific Union College in Angwin for eleven years, compiler of the Angwin Christmas Bird Count conducted by the Howell Mountain Ornithological Society, of which he is president. He is a charter and an elective member of the American Birding Association. His records include 239 species noted in Louisiana, or 59% of those possible, and 333 species in California, or 64% of its total. Next June he leaves for Canada and Alaska. Angwin and Santa Rosa have exchanged helping hands on the Christmas counts. INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO THIS SPECIAL TREAT.

2- OPENING FEATURE.....TOM OLDS

& 7:45 (note the earlier than usual time!) 8:30 Exhibit of creations by Tom Olds.....birds on pins, bolo-tie pieces, larger carvings. Tom is an authentic bird artist as well as a "whittler-carver-sculpturer". This he has pursued as a hobby since his retirement. At a shop in his mobile home at Colonial Park he produces a wide variety of bird reproductions. He and his wife, Venitia, will be here with an exhibit and informally answer any questions you may have about the work. Tom does not sell his items but his work is available to those who contribute donations which go entirely to the sanctuary fund of the Madrone Audubon Society in Santa Rosa. The donations to date have supplied a sizeable amount to the Joan Hamann Dole Memorial Sanctuary near Middletown in Lake County. Since the Olds may not remain for the social session, be sure to come early for their exhibit.

3- AFTER PROGRAM CONVERSATION.....LYNN STAFFORD

Lynn will have maps and records on hand of his observations made during two months in Arizona and New Mexico last summer. His notes appear in this issue of KITE TALES. Since this part of the southwest offers some of the most available as well as the best out-of-state birding for California birders, this is an opportunity to get some real 'know-how' on taking full advantage of the opportunities available there. It also offers a good opportunity to those who have been there to exchange notes. It is a cross-roads for eastern and western species and/or races, and also for Mexican and U.S. species. Many varied habitats are closely associated. Lynn and his wife, Elizabeth, welcome you at the map board after the Tillay program. The refreshments, by the way, will be through Elizabeth's kindness.

PAST-PRESIDENT #8 (1969-70), PETER VICTOR LEVEQUE will be honored at this meeting.

Pete graduated from Montana State at Missoula, obtained his Masters Degree at Oregon State in Corvallis, taught three years at Anady High School in Sebastopol, and has been in the Science Department of the Santa Rosa Junior College for the past eleven years. He has served as Recording Secretary, Program Chairman, and President of the RROS. He has participated in the Santa Rosa Christmas Bird Count eight years and has been very active in supporting the actions of several conservation and wildlife groups.

This salute to Pete winds up our year of "Honoring our past presidents."

OFF-SHORE TRIP FROM BODEGA BAY will be held on Sunday, April 18. The "Finback" leave the Tides Wharf at 7 AM. Contact "Mike" Parmeter for possible opening. 2005 Waverly St., Napa 94558 707-255-6757 \$10 reservation fee.

APRIL FIELD TRIP, Saturday, the 24th to Napa and Lake Counties. Participants will be "on their own" as far as Middletown where the trip will officially start at 10 AM opposite the market at the north end of town. From there the route will be along Butts Canyon Road which turns south off the highway just north of Middletown, by the Detert Reservoir to Lake Hennessey. Previous trips at this time of year have turned up Roadrunner, Lewis Woodpecker, Lawrence Goldfinch, and Hooded Oriole(not yet recorded on an RROS outing!). The leader, Baron McLean, would appreciate knowing in advance who plans to attend. Contact him at our meeting or at his home. 1002 Danbeck Ave., Santa Rosa 95404 707-545-0851

JERRY TINKESS, Business Manager of Bodega Marine Laboratory will be at our April meeting to enlist our interest in Bodega Bay action.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS will take place at the April 15th meeting. Those elected will take over after the field trip and will be responsible for the May meeting.

NOMINEES...(Nominations from the floor are in order)

President...Clarence Tucker(incumbent Vice-President)

Vice-President...Dr. Leland W. "Bud" Gralapp

Recording Secretary...Linda Hanes(incumbent Corresponding Secretary)

Corresponding Secretary...

Treasurer...Merton Roberts(incumbent)

Committee Chairmen are appointees of the new president and, with the elective officers, constitute the Board. A full slate is on hand awaiting confirmation by the new president.

TOP FIVE CHRISTMAS COUNTS FOR 1970

1. Cocoa Beach, Florida.....205
2. Freeport, Texas.....204
3. Santa Barbara, California.....195
4. Point Reyes, California.....193
5. San Diego, California.....191

Because of the inclusions in this month's KITE TALES the trip list and report of the March outing will be held over to the next issue.

1970 SUMMER BIRDING IN ARIZONA & NEW MEXICO
with LYNN S. STAFFORD

During the summer of 1970 I spent 55 days camping out of a Volkswagen sedan in Arizona and New Mexico. The first half of the trip concentrated on birding and the rest of the travels was oriented around Indian ruins and petroglyphs.

In brief, I started in northwestern Arizona and worked across and down to the mountains of southeastern Arizona, into New Mexico to the Rio Grande River at Las Cruces. From there I moved north into northern New Mexico and back west through the Navajo country to Flagstaff, Arizona. Below are sketches of a few of the highlight birding in the areas I visited. I have included some less-known, but interesting areas as well as some of the more popular regions.

TOPOCK, ARIZONA. U.S. Highway 66 enters Arizona at Topock. After crossing the Colorado River, a drive upstream on a side road takes one past extensive marshes and Tamarisk thickets. It looked very worthwhile, but 113° humid heat was too debilitating for me.

HUALPAI MOUNTAINS- near KINGMAN, ARIZONA. The Hualpai Mtns. rise out of the desert in nw. Arizona just south of Kingman. They are the only high mountains on the edge of the lower Colorado River Valley. Although not offering the rich variety of birdlife found in the se. part of Arizona, the Hualpai provides a gradual introduction to southwest birding for the Californian. At 6200' is Hualpai Mountain Park (14 miles south of Kingman) where a quiet campground is shaded by pines and oaks. Here I first observed some southwest specialties. Among the soaring Turkey Vultures was a similar appearing Zone-tailed Hawk. The commonest and most vociferous warbler was the Grace's. Red-faced Warbler, a fir forest beauty was there but uncommon. Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Virginia's Warbler, and Hepatic Tanager were among the 45 species encountered in two days in the Hualpai.

GRANITE DELLS- near PRESCOTT, ARIZONA. Six miles north of Prescott on U.S. 89 is Granite Dells, a pleasant array of granite and outcroppings. On the Prescott side of the Dells is a well-developed riparian stand of large cottonwoods and willows. Nothing spectacular, but it gave me a splendid chance to experience a shaded stream-side community. Lucy's Warbler was as common as the Yellow Warbler here.

SAN FRANCISCO PEAKS- near FLAGSTAFF, Arizona. Anyone interested in some strenuous hiking can be rewarded by all levels of avifauna from Ponderosa Pine forest through alpine ridges above 12,000'. Nesting Water Pipits and White-crowned Sparrows are specialties on top. The Museum of Northern Arizona (4 miles north of Flagstaff on Arizona 180) has good displays, check lists, and a nature trail.

TUCSON, ARIZONA. This is one of America's birdiest cities. Boat-tailed Grackles on the golf-courses, Inca Doves in City Parks, and Cardinals, Gambel's Quail and Gila Woodpeckers in the suburbs. If one forgets that the development of Tucson destroyed the largest mesquite woodland in the southwest, it is easy to think of the city as a bird refuge. The Sahuaro Monuments and Desert Sonora Museum are close-by and provide typical desert birding.

CHIRICAHUA MOUNTAINS- extreme southeastern ARIZONA. Several "island" mountain ranges loom up out of southeastern Arizona's desert country. These provide extreme zonation from arid desert to spruce-fir forests, from Verdin to Evening Grosbeak. However, of even greater interest to the California birder are the sycamore-shaded lower reaches of streams running out of these mountains. For it is here that several Mexican species find suitable habitat. I visited only three of these "island" ranges: The Chiricahua, the Huachuca, and the Graham. The Chiricahua Mountains, within sight of New Mexico are barely north of

Old Mexico; they were very exciting for me. Camping at Rustler Park at 8,000' provided montane birding (Mexican Junco, Olive Warbler, Mexican Chickadee) solitude, and a respite from desert heat. However, Cave Creek, down on the east side of the range, was the highlight. I stayed at a campground that yielded Blue-throated Hummingbird, Coppery-tailed Trogon (including young in nesting hole), Sulphur-bellied and Wied's Crested Flycatcher, Arizona Woodpecker, Bridled Titmouse, and many others. The tiny village of Portal at the mouth of the Cave Creek Canyon was fruitful also. The store owner, graciously allowed me to look around the horse corral out back where I found White-winged Doves, Red-eyed Cowbirds, Vermillion Flycatchers and Cardinals.

GUADALUPE CANYON, ARIZONA--NEW MEXICO--SONORA, MEXICO. Where Arizona, New Mexico and Sonora meet is a very remote, rugged, foothill country inhabited only sparsely by ranchers. A stream, moving southwest from the Peloncillo Mountains into Mexico provides a thin strip of green sycamores and cottonwoods in contrast to the brown rock terrain. This is Guadalupe Canyon, 30 miles by graded and dirt roads from Douglas, Arizona. It is privately owned by gracious and conservation-minded ranchers who know they live in a very unusual canyon and are eager to protect it. I camped in the streambed here for 3 days, and was rewarded by an abundance of bright beautiful, active birds. Zone-tailed Hawk screaming, Gila and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers chattering, and red splashes of Cardinals, Summer Tanagers, and Vermillion Flycatchers everywhere. I managed to identify Beardless Flycatchers and Bell's Vireo here. The Broad-billed Hummingbird was common, and so was the Violet-crowned Hummingbird (a rare bird in this country). One of the specialties of this canyon is the Thick-billed Kingbird. This unmistakable bird was sitting on a limb above the ranch house. I heard a whip-poor-will at night, but can't be sure if it was the Ridgeway's Whip-poor-will, which is known in the U.S. only from this canyon.

SONOITA CREEK- PATAGONIA, ARIZONA. The Nature Conservancy's sanctuary in an extensive streamside woodland here is a magnificent locality for desert and Mexican specialties. Unfortunately I was baked by the heat and not very effective here. However, I did find the Black Hawk, a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and many other species.

BOSQUE DEL APACHE N.W.R.- near SAN ANTONIO, NEW MEXICO. This marshland refuge on the Rio Grande River is very rich. My most exciting bird was an obliging LEAST BITTERN. Once again, noon-time summer heat is a powerful factor when birding here.

SANGRE DE CRISTO MOUNTAINS, near SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO. I took a 3 day back-pack trip into the densely forested spruce-fir back country known as the Pecos Wilderness Area. Among other northern species were the Gray Jay, and the Northern 3-toed Woodpecker. Anyone who is contemplating a light-show rock concert for excitement should sit out a New Mexican mountain thunder and lightning storm in a tiny tube tent. The rainy season in northern New Mexico is July and August, which makes the mountains lush, and the weather unpredictable!

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED in a list of Museums and Interpretative Locations in this area, OR in a Partial BIBLIOGRAPHY of books and booklets covering this area write your request to

Lynn S Stafford PO Box 361, Kenwood, CA 95452
He will have them present at the meeting of RROS April 15, 1971

CHECK-LIST OF BIRDS SEEN in a 55 day Trip in areas described above.

HABITATS: Listed here by number, which are used after each bird in the list to indicate the habitat types in which they were seen.

- 1-Alpine
- 2-Fir-spruce forest
(including aspen and meadows)
- 3-Ponderosa Pine forest
- 4-Pinon-juniper woodlands
- 5-Mixed oak woodlands, Oak brush
- 6-Chaparral
- 7-Mesquite bottomlands
(often with Tamarisk and Cottonwoods)
- 8-Yucca-grassland desert
(se. Arizona, sw. New Mexico)

- 9-Marshes and ponds
 - 10-Farms, orchards and towns
 - 11-Riparian (Cottonwoods, Sycamores, Alders, Maples, etc.)
 - 12-Sonoran cactus desert (Sahuara, Cholla, Ocotillo, etc.)
 - 13-Short-grass plains (Navajo Land of ne. Arizona and nw. New Mexico)
 - 14-Sagebrush desert (Navajoland)
 - 15-Sandstone Canyon country (Navajoland)
 - * indicates Life List added by LSS, trip
- BIRDS SEEN 55 day trip AOU ORDER

- 1-Pied-billed Grebe(9)
- 2-Double-crested Cormorant(9)
- 3-Great Blue Heron(9)
- 4-Green Heron(9)
- 5-Snowy Egret(9)
- 6-Black-crowned Night Heron(9)
- 7-Least Bittern(*) (9)
- 8-Mallard(9)
- 9-Cinnamon Teal(9)
- 10-Ruddy Duck(9)
- 11-Turkey Vulture
- 12-Mississippi Kite(*) (10)
- 13-Cooper's Hawk(3,5)
- 14-Red-tailed Hawk
- 15-Swainson's Hawk(8)
- 16-Zone-tailed Hawk(*) (3)
- 17-Black Hawk(*) (11)
- 18-Golden Eagle(1,8)
- 19-Sparrow Hawk
- 20-Scaled Quail(*) (8)
- 21-Gambel's Quail(10,11,12)
- 22-Harlequin's Quail(*) (5)
- 23-Sora(9)
- 24-American Coot(9)
- 25-Killdeer(9,10)
- 26-Spotted Sandpiper(9,11)
- 27-Greater Yellowlegs(9)
- 28-Dowitcher(sp?) (9)
- 29-American Avocet(9)
- 30-Black Tern(9,10)
- 31-Band-tailed Pigeon(3,5)
- 32-Rock Dove(10)
- 33-White-winged Dove(7,10,11,12)
- 34-Mourning Dove
- 35-Ground Dove(11,13)
- 36-Inca Dove(*) (10)
- 37-Yellow-billed Cuckoo(11)
- 38-Roadrunner(7,12)
- 39-Screech Owl(11)
- 40-Great Horned Owl
- 41-Pygmy Owl(3)
- 42-Burrowing Owl(10)
- 43*(see note)(*)
- Ridgeway's Whip-poor-will
- 44-Whip-poor-will(3) (*)
- 45-Poor-will(4)
- 46-Common Nighthawk(3,4)
- 47-Lesser Nighthawk(8,10)
- 48-White-throated Swift
- 49-Black-chinned Hummingbird(5)
- 50-Rufous Hummingbird(2,3)
- 51-(Selasphorus Sp?) Hummingbird(2,3)
- 52-Calliope Hummingbird(14)
- 53-Broad-tailed Hummingbird(2,3)
- 54-Rivoli's Hummingbird(3,4)
- 55-Blue-throated Hummingbird(11)
- 56-Violet-crowned Hummingbird(11)
- 57-Broad-billed Hummingbird(11)
- 58-Coppery-tailed Trogon(11)
- 59-Red-shafted Flicker(3,5,11)
- 60-Gilded Flicker(12)
- 61-Gila Woodpecker(7,11,12)
- 62-Acorn Woodpecker(5)
- 63-Lewis' Woodpecker(3)
- 64-Williamson's Sapsucker(2)
- 65-Hairy Woodpecker(2,3)
- 66-Downy Woodpecker(11)
- 67-Ladder-backed Woodpecker(7,11,12)
- 68-Arizona Woodpecker(5)
- 69-Northern Three-toed Woodpecker(2) (*)
- 70-Thick-billed Kingbird(*) (11)
- 71-Western Kingbird(8,10,13)
- 72-Cassin's Kingbird(8,10,13)
- 73-Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher(*) (11)
- 74-Wied's Crested Flycatcher(*) (11)
- 75-Ash-throated Flycatcher
- 76-Olivaceous Flycatcher(*) (3)
- 77-Black Phoebe(9,10,11)
- 78-Say's Phoebe(4,8,12,13,14)
- 79-Hammond's Flycatcher(2)
- 80-Western Flycatcher(2)
- 81-Coue's Flycatcher(3)
- 82-Western Wood Pewee(2,3,5,11)
- 83-Olive-sided Flycatcher(2)
- 84-Vermillion Flycatcher(7,11)
- 85-Beardless Flycatcher(*) (11)
- 86-Horned Lark(8,13,14)
- 87-Violet-green Swallow
- 88-Tree Swallow(2)
- 89-Rough-winged Swallow(9)

- 90-Barn Swallow(9,10)
91-Cliff Swallow(9,10,13,14,15)
92-Purple Martin(3)
93-Gray Jay(2)
94-Steller's Jay(2,3)
95-Scrub Jay(4,5,6)
96-Mexican Jay(*) (5,6)
97-Black-billed Magpie(4,10)
98-Common Raven(1,2,3,4,14,15)
99-White-necked Raven(*) (8,13)
100-Common Crow(10)
101-Pinon Jay(4)
102-Clark's Nutcracker(1,2)
103-Mexican Chickadee(*) (3,5)
104-Mountain Chickadee(2,3)
105-Plain Titmouse(4)
106-Bridled Titmouse(*) (5)
107-Verdin(7)
108-Common Bushtit(4,5,6,11)
109-White-breasted Nuthatch(3,5)
110-Red-breasted Nuthatch(2)
111-Pygmy Nuthatch(3)
112-Brown Creeper(2,3)
113-Dipper(2)
114-House Wren(3,5)
115-Bewick's Wren(5,6)
116-Cactus Wren(12)
117-Long-billed Marsh Wren(9)
118-Canyon Wren(2,3,15)
119-Rock Wren(1,13,15)
120-Mockingbird
121-Catbird(*) (11)
122-Curve-billed Thrasher(7,12)
123-Sage Thrasher(14)
124-Robin(2,3)
125-Hermit Thrush(2,3)
126-Western Bluebird(3)
127-Mountain Bluebird(4)
128-Townsend's Solitaire(2,3)
129-Blue-gray Gnatcatcher(6,7)
130-Golden-crowned Kinglet(2)
131-Ruby-crowned Kinglet(2)
132-Water Pipit(1)
133-Phainopepla(7,12)
134-Loggerhead Shrike(10,12,13,14)
135-Starling(10)
136-Hutton's Vireo(5)
137-Bell's Vireo(*) (11)
138-Gray Vireo(*) (4)
139-Solitary Vireo(3)
140-Warbbling Vireo(3)
141-Virginia's Warbler(3,6) (*)
142-Lucy's Warbler(*) (7)
143-Olive Warbler(*) (3)
144-Yellow Warbler(11)
145-Audubon's Warbler(2,3)
146-Black-throated Gray Warbler(4,5)
147-Grace's Warbler(*) (3)
148-MacGillivray's Warbler(2,3)
149-Yellowthroat(9)
150-Yellow-breasted Chat(11)
151-Red-faced Warbler(*) (2,3)
152-Wilson's Warbler(11)
153-Painted Redstart(*) (3,11)
154-House Sparrow(10)
155-Eastern Meadowlark(*) (13)
156-Western Meadowlark(8,10,11,14)
157-Yellow-headed Blackbird(9)
158-Red-winged Blackbird(9,10)
159-Hooded Oriole(7,10,11,12)
160-Scott's Oriole(7,8)
161-Bullcock's Oriole(7,10,11)
162-Brewer's Blackbird(10)
163-Boat-tailed Grackle(*) (10)
164-Brown-headed Blackbird(3,5,10,11)
165-Bronzed Cowbird(*) (10,11)
(Red-eyed)
166-Western Tanager(2,3)
167-Hepatic Tanager(*) (3)
168-Summer Tanager(7,11)
169-Cardinal(7,10,11)
170-Black-headed Grosbeak(3,5)
171-Blue Grosbeak(7,10,11)
172-Lazuli Bunting(3,6)
173-Evening Grosbeak(2)
174-House Finch
175-Pine Siskin(2)
176-American Goldfinch(10)
177-Lesser Goldfinch(5,6,10)
178-Green-tailed Towhee(2)
179-Rufous-sided Towhee(4,5,6,11)
180-Brown Towhee(7,10,14)
181-Abert's Towhee(7)
182-Vesper Sparrow(14)
183-Lark Sparrow(4)
184-Rufous-crowned Sparrow(4,8)
185-Cassin's Sparrow(*) (8,13)
186-Black-throated Sparrow(7,8,12,14)
187-Sage Sparrow(14)
188-Gray-headed Junco(2,3)
189-Mexican Junco(*) (1,2,3,5,11)
190-Chipping Sparrow(3)
191-Black-chinned Sparrow(6)
192-White-crowned Sparrow(1)
193-Fox Sparrow(?-1)
194-Lincoln's Sparrow(2)
195-Song Sparrow(9)

R.R.O.S. FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR MAY 1970 through MARCH 1971
 Here provided to let the officers and members know what our past
 year's financial action has been; and to guide us in making plans
 for 1971-72.

EXPENDITURES

National Audubon Society, affiliation annual fee	25.00
Point Reyes Bird Observatory, contribution	25.00
C.O.A.A.S.T., contribution	25.00
Environmental Center, Santa Rosa, @\$5.00 a month	60.00
Christmas Count expenses	25.60
Program of RROS, Speaker contributions	35.00
RROS Library "Bird Finding in Mexico"	8.26
Honoring Past-Presidents	14.91
"Kite Tales" Expenses	12.00
Expenses of Pres., Sec., Treas., Roster-paper-Ink- postage, telephone	23.95
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SUBTOTAL	\$254.72
Advance Reservation Apr Offshore boat asset returnable after April 18th.	25.00
Balance in Bank end of March	24.92
	<hr/>
TOTAL	\$304.64

RECEIPTS

Forward from 1968-70 Funds	159.19
Received from Dues 1970-71	139.50
Gifts	5.00
From Interest Savings Acct, at time of transfer	.95
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TOTAL	\$304.64

LIABILITIES Dues prepaid \$3.00	
ASSETS Advanced Reservation fee	\$25.00
Cash in Bank	24.92
Net assets at end of March 1971	46.92
ESTIMATED DUES RECEIVABLE from present membership for the year 1971-72	151.00
NET ESTIMATED INCOME	<hr/> 197.92

1971-72 Budget must anticipate a reduction
OR increased income

NOTE: This is not a Treasurer's Report, but does break down
several checks issued into the separate uses for which they were
spent. Treasurer will submit his report at the end of April, when the
new officers take over. There may be other items due to be paid but
it is approximate, as of now.

Mike Forester
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