

KITE TALES

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
VOL. 6~ No 4 SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA DECEMBER 1971

ARE AVES ALWAYS AGREEABLE?

The regular monthly meeting of the R.R.O.S. will be held on Thursday, December 9, in Room 221 of the Charles Darwin Hall of Science on the campus of Sonoma State College in Rhonert Park. Program starts promptly at 8 P.M.

At this session we will be addressed by two employees of our Sonoma County Government who are directly concerned with certain aspects of wildlife within the county. Mr. Charles Andresen, Agricultural Inspector in charge of vertebrate problems, and Mr. Harry F. McCracken, Agricultural Commissioner, will be on hand to talk to and with us about the problems posed by Starlings and other vertebrate forms in the county.

Here is your chance to get first-hand information concerning some ecological issues which have been handled about in a sometimes emotional manner recently. Almost surely some interesting interplays of divergent views will emerge at this meeting.

CHRISTMAS COUNTS COMING...

Anyone who can possibly assist in our count which is to be held on Sunday, December 26, or in a soup and sandwich session that evening, is urged to contact Gordon Polander, 1650 Timber Hill Road, Santa Rosa, 95401. Phone (707) 542-5216. Areas are being assigned and assistance is most welcome.

Keep in mind that the actual count period is from December 18 through January 2. Any species seen within our count area during that period should be noted and reported. Hopefully we'll record them all on the 26th. You are urged to spend as much time as possible before the count "nailing down" just where to locate them. If they are outside your own particular area let us know so that we might alert others to the possibilities.

Remember, too, that each observer is expected (the Count Committee says, "is required") to pay an entry fee of \$1.00 to defray expenses.

OTHER COUNTS: They, also, would appreciate your help.

WESTERN SONOMA COUNTY by the Madrone Audubon Society.

Saturday, December 18. Contact Baron Mclean 1002 Danback Ave., Santa Rosa
Phone 545-0851 95404

POINT REYES by the Point Reyes Bird Observatory

Sunday, December 19. Contact Jack Guggolz 685 Mesa Way, Richmond 94805
Phone (415)234-4298

ANGWIN

Sunday, January 2. Contact Wayne Tillay 160 Cold Springs Rd., Angwin
Phone 965-2978 94508

The officers and your editor would like to take this opportunity to say,

"MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL"

THE TOP-TEN, PLUS ONE

Which birds have appeared most often in the RROS trip lists? We suggested last month that you make up a list of the ten you thought were the most likely candidates to check with the actual listing in this issue. It comes out as follows:

Turkey Vulture and Killdeer tied for the top spot
Red-tailed Hawk, House Finch, and Song Sparrow tied for runner-up
Red-winged Blackbird
Brewer Blackbird
Great Blue Heron and American Coot
Western Meadowlark and Black Phoebe

The next ten in order were: Sparrow Hawk, Red-shafted Flicker, House Sparrow, Belted Kingfisher, Scrub Jay, Ruddy Duck, White-crowned Sparrow, Common Crow, Bewick Wren, and California Quail.

We're sure your lists must have been very similar but perhaps you found that there were some surprises. (We did!) The Song Sparrow would have had an uncontested third place except that for some unaccountable reason it wasn't found at Graylodge this trip!

THE FIELD ALWAYS HOLDS EXCITEMENT

Bolander and Tillay were fortunate to be with Lawrence Binford at Honey Lake on Nov. 13 for views of three species of Longspurs (Lapland, McCown, and Chestnut-collared). Other welcome sightings included many Rough-legged Hawks, Harris and White-throated Sparrows, Blue Goose, and Northern Shrike.

On the 27th, Parmeter, McGrew, Arnold, and others revisited the route of our October Pt. Reyes trip and came up with Palm Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, and eight Oldsquaws along with more fine views of the Lapland Longspurs.

Even staying at home has its points! Ask "Mike" Parmeter where that Black-billed Magpie he saw at his place in Napa came from.

Plan to visit the Starling roost west of Freestone some evening. It's really a tremendous sight!

(When you have interesting sightings let me know and I'll get them into the KITE TALES. People are interested and are always looking for those items, too.)

NOVEMBER FIELD TRIP TO GRAYLODGE

The Graylodge Wildlife Area, that avian metropolis which draws, besides the birds, both bird-hunters and bird-watchers is becoming so popular with the latter group that minor traffic jams are occurring along the roadways within the refuge. Such was the case when our party and at least four other birding groups converged there on Saturday, November 20. It is obvious that any group using the facility should endeavor to use as few cars as possible

while within the refuge area. We met strings of vehicles on occasion and at least a third of them were occupied only by the driver. Birders are somewhat resented by the hunters and even by a small segment of the management personnel who feel that they are freeloaders enjoying the fruits of a program supported largely by the hunters themselves. Inasmuch as this is basically so, it is incumbent upon the birders to be as cooperative and as unobtrusive as they are able. Car-pooling is certainly one means by which this can be promoted. Another means would be to park only in the designated parking areas and not to stop along the roadways themselves. I suspect this latter point will become a requirement soon if we birders don't demonstrate our willingness to practice this courtesy toward our hosts through our own volition.

The usual fine observations were present within the management area where we listed 64 species. The Sandhill Cranes and Ross Geese were probably the most welcome although Lesser Yellowlegs and Yellow-headed Blackbirds seemed to be highly popular with those present. Of course, it was the great swarms of ducks and geese which created those unforgettable tableaux of wildlife which are the high point of a winter trip to this wonderful spot. (Birds marked * were seen away from Graylodge)

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|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Eared Grebe | Sora | Rock Wren* |
| Pied-billed Grebe | Common Gallinule | Mockingbird |
| Great Blue Heron | American Coot | American Robin* |
| Common Egret | Killdeer | Western Bluebird* |
| Snowy Egret | Common Snipe | Mountain Bluebird* |
| Black-crowned Night Heron | Long-billed Curlew* | Ruby-crowned Kinglet |
| American Bittern | Greater Yellow-legs | Water Pipit |
| Canada Goose | Lesser Yellowlegs | Loggerhead Shrike |
| White-fronted Goose | Long-billed Dowitcher | Starling |
| Snow Goose | Ring-billed Gull | Audubon Warbler |
| Ross Goose | Mourning Dove | Yellowthroat |
| Mallard | Burrowing Owl | House Sparrow |
| Gadwall | Red-shafted Flicker | Western Meadowlark |
| Pintail | Acorn Woodpecker* | Yellow-headed Blackbird |
| Green-winged Teal | Lewis Woodpecker* | Red-winged Blackbird |
| American Widgeon | Downy Woodpecker | Brewer Blackbird* |
| Shoveler | Nuttall Woodpecker* | House Finch |
| Wood Duck* | Black Phoebe | American Goldfinch |
| Ruddy Duck | Say Phoebe* | Lesser Goldfinch |
| Turkey Vulture | Horned Lark* | Rufous-sided Towhee |
| White-tailed Kite | Scrub Jay* | Brown Towhee |
| Cooper Hawk | Yellow-billed Magpie* | Savannah Sparrow |
| Red-tailed Hawk | Common Raven* | Vesper Sparrow* |
| Ferruginous Hawk* | Plain Titmouse* | Lark Sparrow* |
| Marsh Hawk | Common Bushtit | Oregon Junco* |
| Sparrow Hawk | Bewick Wren | White-crowned Sparrow |
| Ring-necked Pheasant | Common Crow* | Golden-crowned Sparrow |
| Sandhill Crane | Long-billed Marsh Wren | Fox Sparrow |
| Virginia Rail | Canyon Wren* | Lincoln Sparrow* |

A reminder. Next Audubon Wildlife Film is on January 22. "Mule Deer Country"

Come join us at Rhonert Park on the second Thursday of each month. Our fees are kept to a minimum, only \$3 per annum.

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