

KITE TALES

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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MAY MEETING.....

The final meeting of the RROS in the 1971-72 season will be held on Thursday, May 11, in Room 221 of the Charles Darwin Hall of Science, Sonoma State College, Rohnert Park. The Program will start at 8 PM and will feature CLERIN ZUMWALT who will address the group on the subject of PLANTS AND BIRDS OF MARIN COUNTY. His own excellent slides, many of these are new ones, will be used to illustrate his talk. Do plan to be with us and bring a friend!

MAY FIELD TRIP.....

Our traditional run up the Ida Clayton Road will be held on Saturday, May 13. The group will meet at 9AM where the Porter Creek and Franz Valley Roads intersect. This is always a very productive trip and unexpected species have often contributed much to the usual abundance of sightings. Little walking is involved. Bring your lunch and your friends and enjoy some of the top birding to be had in this vicinity.

APRIL FIELD TRIP.....

Judging from the lists of plant and animal species which were submitted to me, the trip to Sugarloaf Ridge State Park, under the able leadership of "Mike" Parmeter, was an unqualified success. The outing took place on Saturday, April 22. Other than the White-throated Swift, seen on Los Alamos Road, all the birds were recorded from the park. So, too, were the wild flowers which were listed by Cecil Cox.

Turkey Vulture	Cliff Swallow	Red-winged Blackbird
Cooper Hawk	Steller Jay	Bullock Oriole
Red-tailed Hawk	Scrub Jay	Brewer Blackbird
Golden Eagle	Plain Titmouse	Brown-headed Cowbird
California Quail	Common Bushtit	Western Tanager
Mountain Quail	White-breasted Nuthatch	Black-headed Grosbeak
Mourning Dove	Brown Creeper	Lazuli Bunting
White-throated Swift	Wren	Purple Finch
Anna Hummingbird	House Wren	House Finch
Belted Kingfisher	Bewick Wren	Lesser Goldfinch
Red-shafted Flicker	California Thrasher	Rufous-sided Towhee
Acorn Woodpecker	American Robin	Brown Towhee
Nuttall Woodpecker	Cedar Waxwing	Lark Sparrow
Western Kingbird	Hutton Vireo	Rufous-crowned Sparrow
White-throated Flycatcher	Solitary Vireo	Sage Sparrow

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Black Phoebe	Warbling Vireo	Oregon Junco
Western Flycatcher	Orange-crowned Warbler	Chipping Sparrow
Violet-green Swallow	Yellow Warbler	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Rough-winged Swallow	Black-throated Gray Warbler	Song Sparrow

Plants which were listed for the trip:

California Poppy	Common Monkey Flower	Fiddleneck
Buttercup	Wild Iris	Baby Blue Eyes
Water Buttercup	Grass Iris	White Blue Eyes
Popcorn Plant	Common Brodiaea	Zigadene
Mule's Ears	Tomcat Clover	Red Larkspur
Red Maids	Vetch	a rare rock fern
Diogone's Lantern	Goldfields	Licorice Fern
Indian Warrior	Jade Plant	Coffee Fern
White Gilia	Pineapple Plant	Birdfoot Fern
Bird's Eye Gilia	Scarlet Pimpernel	Maidenhair Fern
Woodland Star	Cream Cups	Goldback Fern

ARIZONA COMES THROUGH.....AGAIN.....

Baron and Marion McLean birded in southeastern Arizona from March 24 to April 3. They report windy, then freezing weather, but excellent birding.

Twenty-eight species, including a Gull-billed Tern, were seen only in California, twenty-five species were found in both states, and eighty-seven were noted only in Arizona, thus bringing their total list for the trip to 140. From their arrival in Tucson to their departure, six days later, they traveled a distance of only 600 miles but Baron added thirty species to his AOU area list and renewed acquaintances with two eastern species not seen for a long time, the Cardinal and the Eastern Meadowlark. Those new to his list are:

Black Vulture	Broad-billed Hummingbird	Mexican Jay
Zone-tailed Hawk	Rivoli Hummingbird	Scott Oriole
Harris Hawk	Blue-throated Hummingbird	Bell Vireo
Mexican Duck	Tropical Kingbird	Bridled Titmouse
Gilded Flicker	White-necked Raven	Painted Redstart
Gila Woodpecker	Great-tailed Grackle	Pyrrhuloxia
Arizona Woodpecker	Bronzed Cowbird	Mexican Junco
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	Inca Dove	Five-striped Sparrow
Coppery-tailed Trogon	Bendire Thrasher	Baird Sparrow
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	Curve-billed Thrasher	Botteri Sparrow

Other species of particular interest to Baron were the abundant Vermilion Flycatcher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Lark Bunting, Ferruginous Hawk, Blue Grosbeak, Goshawk, Roadrunner, and Ground Dove. Once, near Pena Blanca Lake, he had a Tropical Kingbird, a Vermilion Flycatcher, a Say Phoebe, and a Mockingbird all in one group. The White-crowned Sparrow seemed to be a much clearer gray than those we see hereabouts. The meadowlark was kind enough to sing so that he could be certain that it was the eastern species. And they watched a Horned Owl having difficulty keeping its ears in place during a heavy wind period.

Such accounts as this make it easy to see why the southwest holds such an appeal to an ornithologist. Baron says he's "going back to get the ones we missed." He has the fever, alright.

The Traveler's List and Checklist for Birds of North America is a complete list of species which regularly occur in North America north of the Mexican border. It has twelve columns for checking each species (12 days, 12 different areas, etc.). It has a numbered section in which to write in the species on that 'big trip' in the order in which they were seen. It has an alphabetical index and its 4X7 inch size makes it very convenient to carry. 40 pages in all. They are available from Gordon Bolander at the publisher's price of 50¢.

MOULTING TIME.....

By tradition, our new slate of officers take over in the May meeting. It is fitting that we offer our sincere appreciation to Clarence Tucker for serving as our president during the past year, to Linda Hanes, who handled the secretary's duties so well, and to Merton Roberts for keeping our financial affairs in good order. "Bud" Gralapp, of course, steps up to the president's chair, David Hanes will be his back-up man in the vice-president post, Irma Schallert will take over as treasurer, and Edna Stafford will assume the duties of secretary. Let's give them our whole-hearted support!

Dues run from September through May and the best time to pay them is NOW! Bring them along to the meeting or send them to

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