

KITE TALES

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
VOL. 7~N^o4 SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA DECEMBER 1972

DECEMBER MEETING.....

The regular monthly meeting of the RROS will be held on Thursday, Dec. 14, in Room 221 of the Charles Darwin Hall of Science, California State College-Sonoma, in Rohnert Park.

The program, which starts at 8PM, will feature three of our local members, McLean, Tillay, and Bolander, who will relate some of their birding experiences in southern Arizona earlier in the year. Each was there in a different month and some indications of the effects upon the birding should be forthcoming. (A comparative listing of the species they observed was presented in our September issue.)

DECEMBER FIELD EVENTS.....

Most important of these is the annual Christmas bird count which the club holds in the Santa Rosa area. This year it is to be held on Saturday, December 23. Please do sign on with Compiler Baron McLean so that we can have full coverage of our area. Let's strive to keep it what it has long been, one of the best non-coastal counts in the nation!

Baron would also like your help with the Western Sonoma count on the 30th. Jack Guggolz is also looking for good observers to help with the Pt. Reyes count on Dec. 16, and Wayne Tillay would like some to start 1973 off right on his count at Angwin on January 1. "All aboard!"

Our trip to Graylodge will be held on Saturday, December 2. We are planning a divided approach this time. Take your choice of which you prefer but DO come. It's sure to be a stand-out birding experience. Lunches, glasses, cameras, and, of course, friends are in order.

'A' group. These will assemble at the Graylodge check-in station on Pennington Road at 10 AM. Please pool cars at that point (Don't forget those lunches!) The group will then proceed through the refuge area under the leadership of Baron McLean.

'B' group. These will leave Santa Rosa at 6:30 AM from the parking lot by the Black Forest Inn. (Calistoga Road at Sonoma Hiway.) Gordon Bolander will lead. They will proceed to Calistoga and follow Hiway 29 to Lower Lake, cross over to Hiway 20 on State route 53, and follow 20 east to Meridian where they will swing north around the west side of Sutter Buttes to Graylodge. Stops will be made along the way to enjoy the fine birding that this route offers. Such items as Canyon Wren, Lewis Woodpecker, Vesper Sparrow, and Golden Eagle are good possibilities. The group should arrive at Graylodge in time to eat lunch with the 'A' group.

Our October field trip to the Point Reyes area was well attended and provided our group with a fine list of 109 species. Considering the heavy morning fog, that was quite respectable. We were unable to come up with anything spectacular but some exceptional close-up views of a wonderfully obliging male Red Crossbill were certainly received with enthusiasm. It was something that we couldn't see which also evoked favorable comments. The houses are gone from the sandspit at Limantour. Great! Finally. Some progress of the right sort.

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|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Common Loon | American Coot | Winter Wren |
| Arctic Loon | Semi-palmated Plover | Bewick Wren |
| Red-necked Grebe | Killdeer | Long-billed Marsh Wren |
| Western Grebe | Black-bellied Plover | American Robin |
| Pied-billed Grebe | Common Snipe | Varied Thrush |
| White Pelican | Willet | Hermit Thrush |
| Brown Pelican | Least Sandpiper | Western Bluebird |
| Double-crested Cormorant | Dunlin | Ruby-crowned Kinglet |
| Brandt Cormorant | Short-billed Dowitcher | Water Pipit |
| Great Blue Heron | Western Sandpiper | Cedar Waxwing |
| Common Egret | Marbled Godwit | Loggerhead Shrike |
| Snowy Egret | Sanderling | Starling |
| Black-crowned Night Heron | Glaucous-winged Gull | Hutton Vireo |
| American Bittern | Western Gull | Orange-crowned Warbler |
| Gadwall | Herring Gull | Audubon Warbler |
| Pintail | California Gull | Townsend Warbler |
| Green-winged Teal | Ring-billed Gull | House Sparrow |
| Cinnamon Teal | Bonaparte Gull | Western Meadowlark |
| American Widgeon | Heermann Gull | Red-winged Blackbird |
| Doveler | Forster Tern | Tri-colored Blackbird |
| Ring-necked Duck | Band-tailed Pigeon | Brewer Blackbird |
| Lesser Scaup | Mourning Dove | Purple Finch |
| Bufflehead | Belted Kingfisher | House Finch |
| Surf Scoter | Red-shafted Flicker | Pine Siskin |
| Common Scoter | Acorn Woodpecker | Lesser Goldfinch |
| Ruddy Duck | Hairy Woodpecker | Red Crossbill |
| Turkey Vulture | Downy Woodpecker | Rufous-sided Towhee |
| White-tailed Kite | Black Phoebe | Brown Towhee |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | Steller Jay | Savannah Sparrow |
| Cooper Hawk | Scrub Jay | Oregon Junco |
| Red-tailed Hawk | Common Raven | White-crowned Sparrow |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | Common Crow | Golden-crowned Sparrow |
| Marsh Hawk | Chestnut-backed Chickadee | Fox Sparrow |
| Sparrow Hawk | Common Bushtit | Lincoln Sparrow |
| California Quail | White-breasted Nuthatch | Song Sparrow |
| Virginia Rail | Pygmy Nuthatch | |
| Sora | Wrentit | |

"Faye" Beeman reports an urban-minded Green Heron in flight over the Santa Rosa City Hall on October 13. He also had a White-throated Sparrow at his home feeder on Chanate Road on November 7. It would thus seem that you can bird IN as well as AROUND our fair city. This is further supported by the list of 102 species which have been observed from the grounds of the Proctor Terrace School at 4th and Bryden Lane. Evening Grosbeaks continue to appear regularly about the county and the Burrowing Owls are back at their old stamping grounds on Guerneville Road. Several hundred Violet-green Swallows appear over the Laguna lowlands after each rainy session. Anyone know where they are during the nice weather?

