

# KITE TALES

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
VOL. 7-Nº 7 SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA MARCH 1973

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## MARCH MEETING.....

The regular meeting of the RRROS will be held on Thursday, March 8, in Room 221 of the Charles Darwin Hall of Science, California State College-Sonoma in Rohnert Park. Program starts at 8 PM.

Bill Germeraud, of the Point Reyes National Seashore, will be on hand with an informative talk, LIVING HERITAGE, about our National Parks.

## MARCH FIELD TRIP.....

This is scheduled for Saturday, the 17th. It will be a return to the sight of our very first field trip, the Laguna de Santa Rosa. Nine spring trips there have yielded an average of 83 species per trip. That's pretty fair birding, "right here in our backyard" so to speak.

Me et at Hall and Willowside Roads at 8:30 AM for some easy-going birding. Bolander will lead.

## SPRING OFFSHORE TRIP.....

"Mike" Parmeter has set up another run out of Bodega for the 13th of May. Space is limited to the first 16 who reserve the spots. The charge, payable to Mike in advance, is \$11.00. Mike's address is 2500 Emerson St., Napa, CA. 94558.

## FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP REPORT.....

Twelve observers were on hand February 17 as we trekked from Rio Vista to the Thornton area for some good interior birding. The "highlight" bird, which became No. 277 on our club "life list", was the Phainopepla. Two males were seen along the Euzumnes River north of Thornton. A copious supply of mistletoe berries no doubt accounted for their presence there.

In great contrast to the situation caused by the arid conditions of last year, the water levels were high and the birds were more widely distributed. Sandhill Cranes, one of the main objectives, were very numerous and fine views were had of them at several spots. An unusually high number of Herring Gulls were present and well distributed. Tree, Rough-winged, and Cliff Swallows, and an Orange-crowned Warbler on the scene made it seem that spring will be here soon despite the rains.

### Species noted:

Western Grebe	American Bittern	Mallard
Pied-billed Grebe	Whistling Swan	Pintail
Great Blue Heron	Canada Goose	Cinnamon Teal
Common Egret	White-fronted Goose	Wood Duck
Black-crowned Night Heron	Snow Goose	Ruddy Duck

February Field Trip List, cont'd.

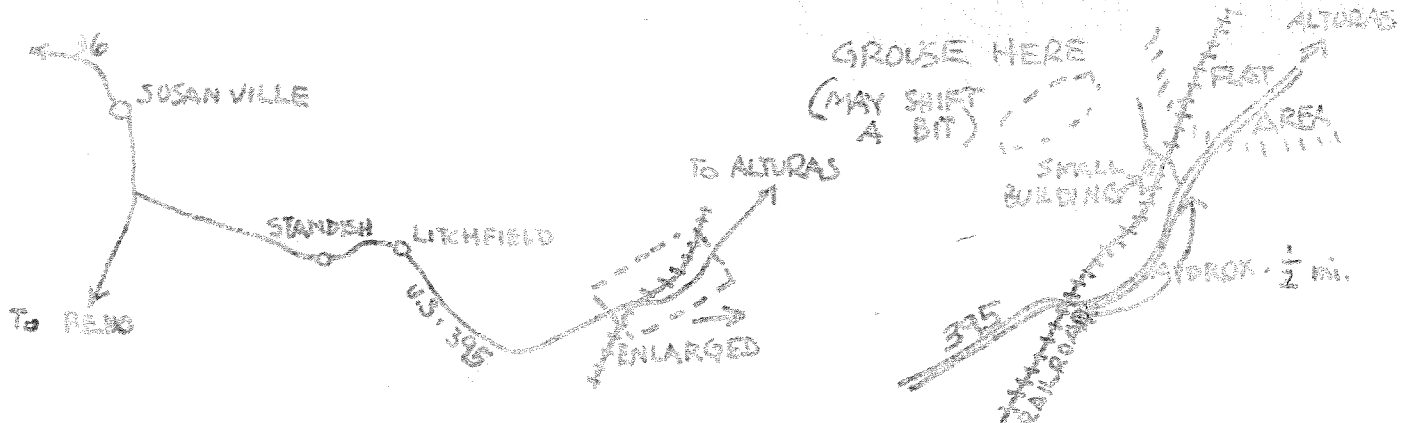
Turkey Vulture	Belted Kingfisher	Phainopepla
White-tailed Kite	Red-shafted Flicker	Loggerhead Shrike
Cooper Hawk	Acorn Woodpecker	Starling
Red-tailed Hawk	Downy Woodpecker	Orange-crowned Warbler
Red-shouldered Hawk	Nuttall Woodpecker	Myrtle Warbler
Marsh Hawk	Black Phoebe	Audubon Warbler
Sparrow Hawk	Say Phoebe	Yellowthroat
California Quail	Horned Lark	House Sparrow
Ring-necked Pheasant	Tree Swallow	- Western Meadowlark
Sandhill Crane	Rough-winged Swallow	Red-winged Blackbird
Common Gallinule	Cliff Swallow	Brewer Blackbird
American Coot	Scrub Jay	Purple Finch
Killdeer	Common Crow	House Finch
Common Snipe	Plain Titmouse	American Goldfinch
Long-billed Curlew	Bushtit	Lesser Goldfinch
Greater Yellowlegs	White-breasted Nuthatch	Lesser Goldfinch
Least Sandpiper	Wrentit	Rufous-sided Towhee
Dunlin	Bewick Wren	Brown Towhee
Glaucous-winged Gull	Long-billed Marsh Wren	Savannah Sparrow
Herring Gull	Mockingbird	Lark Sparrow
California Gull	American Robin	Oregon Junco
Ring-billed Gull	Varied Thrush	White-crowned Sparrow
New Gull	Hermit Thrush	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Mourning Dove	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Fox Sparrow
Burrowing Owl	Water Pipit	Lincoln Sparrow
Anna Hummingbird		Song Sparrow

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE SOME SAGE GROUSE?

The opportunity to observe the unique courtship strutting of the Sage Grouse is one that any birder should not pass by. In spite of their large size, they are amazingly inconspicuous and difficult to locate through the greater part of the year. On the dance arena, however, they become quite conspicuous and, once such an area is located, it is an easy matter to observe them there. One such strutting ground is readily available in Lassen County and the birds have already begun their daily appearances and should continue to do so until the early days of April. The site is just north of Litchfield on Highway 395 (see sketch map). Observers should REMAIN AWAY FROM THE BIRDS in order not to disturb their breeding routine. Therefore, it is recommended that the viewing be done by means of telescopes.

An added attraction is the sizeable herd of antelope which winter in the vicinity of the site. Some 400 were noted in February of this year. And, of course, the Honey Lake Valley is a great birding area. On Feb. 19-20, the Parameters, Guggolz, and Bolander recorded nine Bald Eagles, five Golden Eagles, three Prairie Falcons, dozens of Rough-legged Hawks, and many Red-tailed and Marsh Hawks. Cooper and Sparrow Hawks were also present and a Northern Shrike and a few Lapland Longspurs were listed along with geese, swans, ducks, and various of the more montane species.

The quickest and easiest approach is by way of Highway 80 to Reno and then north on 395 to Susanville (or the short-cut south of there). Good weather and time permitting, a run north to Chico and then east to Susanville via Highways 32 and 36 might be more appealing to a birder.



Good accomodations in Susanville, 40 min.  
 One small motel in Litchfield, 10 min.

Be on hand at sunrise and watch  
 for birds flying in.

It scarcely seems possible! Another RROS year has nearly run its course and we must elect a new slate of officers next month. We have thus far been functioning around a select small group of dedicated souls who have served in many capacities but replacement troops are needed! Continue to bring in those welcome guests. We're certain our activities program will appeal to most and that our future leaders will emerge.

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, established in 1962 for the purpose of encouraging the study and conservation of birds, other wildlife, and their natural habitat.

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