

Kite Tales

MAY

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Volume 20, No. 9

Sonoma County

1986

COMING ATTRACTIONS

May 8, Thursday, 6 PM, Spring Potluck and General Meeting

Our final meeting until September will be at the Group Picnic Area, Sugarloaf Ridge State Park in Kenwood. The rangers there have assured Jan Bosshard that the roads will be repaired and that our potluck will present no problems. So come along and bring a friend and a favorite food to share. Please bring your own eating utensils and beverage.

After supper we will have a short business meeting and then will enjoy an owl walk and will listen for Poorwills.

To get there, take Hwy 12 from Santa Rosa or Sonoma areas and follow the signs to Kenwood. About ½ mile north of Kenwood, turn onto Adobe Canyon Rd. Follow this road to the group picnic area. No admission fee will be charged RROS members and guests at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park this evening. See you there!

May 17, Saturday, Field Trip to Sacramento Valley

Joel Hornstein will lead this trip to look for Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Blue Grosbeaks and Swainson's Hawks in the Yuba City-Chico area. Joel will meet the group at 7:30 AM at Lyons Restaurant on Hwy 20 in Yuba City. Yuba City and Marysville have lots of motels. Richard Merriss will be going up Friday night and staying with friends at 916/822-0001, in case anyone wants to reach him. There is the possibility, said Richard, of seeing Flammulated Owls and Lesser Nighthawks in this area, too.

May 31, Saturday, Field Trip to Bouverie Audubon Preserve

This special visit will begin at 8 AM at the entrance to the Preserve on Hwy 12, just east of the Arnold Drive turnoff to Glen Ellen. John Petersen, Resident Biologist at the Preserve, will lead the group through the oak woodland and redwood canyon back to the waterfall, where wrens sing from the stream banks.

NEW RROS OFFICERS

Jan Bosshard became our new president at the April meeting. The vice president will be Kurt Campbell, treasurer will be Wini Nelson; and Ruth Rudesill will continue as secretary. Shirley Myers has agreed to be Social Chairman again, Jean Smith will edit KITE TALES, and Doug Ellis will run the 1986 Christmas count.

Our warm thanks go to the outgoing officers - President Kathy Mugele and Treasurer Don Johnston - and to Field Trips Chairman Richard Merriss and Observations Chairman Hal Corey. We appreciate the fine work they have done for RROS this past year.

THIS IS THE LAST KITE TALES UNTIL SEPTEMBER so enjoy the field trips, have a good summer, and we'll see you all in the Fall.

FIELD TRIP REPORT ON HUMBOLDT BAY, APRIL 11-13

Nine adult birders and two male immatures gathered at Arcata Marsh Friday afternoon to observe the ducks, a Merlin and an Osprey, and the migrant shorebirds coming into breeding plumage. The wind was cold, but the avocets were warmly colored. On Saturday, the group watched Varied Thrush through bursts of rain for awhile at Patrick's Point State Park. Then they headed for Horse Mountain off Hwy 299, hoping for some car birding. Only they found themselves in a snowy blizzard! So the birdwatchers took time out.

In late afternoon, sun appeared and birding resumed. Sunday morning was bright and windless. The Tufted Puffins and Common Murres were in place on their rocks off Elkhead Point, just north of Trinidad. Lots of birds, all singing mightily, in that beautiful woods! Ruth Rudesill, you showed us a marvelous birding trip! The birds are there; only the weather is chancy.

Incidentally, most of the group had an excellent Cajun dinner Saturday night - Terry Babineaux's and Bob McLean's recommendation - at a place called Jonah's: something called "blackened fish". Spicy and delicious! It's in Arcata.

The list of over 120 birds follows: Common, Pacific and Red-throated Loons; Red-necked, Horned, Eared and Western Grebes; Double-crested, Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorants; Herons: Green-backed, Cattle, Great, Snowy, Black-crowned; ducks: Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, American Wigeon, Shoveler, Wood Duck, Ring-necked, Greater Scaup, Bufflehead, White-winged Scoter, Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Common Merganser; Turkey Vulture, White-tailed Kite, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Northern Harrier, Osprey, Merlin, Kestrel, California Quail, American Coot, Black Oystercatcher, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy and Black Turnstones, Long-billed Curlew, Whimbrel, Wandering Tattler, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Knot, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitcher, Western Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, American Avocet, Glaucous-winged Gull, Western Gull, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Caspian Tern, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Tufted Puffin, Band-tailed Pigeon, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove; Anna's, Rufous and Allen's Hummingbirds; Belted Kingfisher, Common Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Western Kingbird, Black Phoebe, Western Flycatcher; Swallows: Violet-green, Tree, Rough-winged, Barn, and Cliff; Steller's and Scrub Jays, Common Raven, Common Crow, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Brown Creeper, Wren-tit; Wrens: Winter, Bewick's and Long-billed Marsh; Mockingbird, American Robin, Varied Thrush, Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Water Pipit, Starling, Solitary and Warbling Vireos; Warblers: Orange-crowned, Myrtle and Audubon's, Black-throated Gray, MacGillivray's and Wilson's; House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbirds, Brown-headed Cowbird, Purple Finch, House Finch, American and Lesser Goldfinches, Rufous-sided and Brown Towhees; Sparrows: Savannah, Oregon Junco, White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Fox and Song.

ANY BANK SWALLOW OBSERVATIONS, please pass along to Betty Burrige. A special study is under way on these birds.

BLACK-CHINNED SPARROWS IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA are one of Luis Baptista's projects. Any observations you have on these birds, please inform Mr. Baptista at the California Academy of Sciences.

OBSERVATIONS - Hal Corey (542-8429)

At Honey Lake 3/8-9: Sage Grouse at the lek checked out at 14 males and 9 females. Also seen in the area were 3 Golden Eagles, 3 Bald Eagles, 1 Rough-legged Hawk, 4 Sandhill Cranes and Pronghorns (SP & GS).

On a field trip to McInnis Park, on the Bay just north of San Rafael, 3/29, a Clapper Rail was observed, along with a Golden Eagle, Clark's and Western Grebes (JB).

Northern Orioles have been slinging the syrup from Corey's feeder from 3/28 on. Others are nesting on Sonoma State U. campus (DN). Hooded Orioles, 4/2, are nesting in the Cotati-Rohnert Park Area. Kurt Campbell says to watch for them in fan palms. They make a scold similar to a Northern Oriole. Kurt predicts that at least 50 pairs of Hooded Orioles will be found in the county if people watch for them in the right places.

Black-shouldered Kites are nesting near the Santa Rosa Air Center-Hearn Ave area, as are Tree Swallows. Short-eared Owls were hunting there in early April. (RM). A Golden Eagle was seen over Petaluma Hill Road (TB).

On a Bird Walk with a Marin group on 4/5, up Salmon Creek Road, John Klobas found 4 species of owl: 2 Spotted, Great-horned, Screech and Saw-whet. On 4/9 Caspian and Forster's Terns were observed at the Salmon Creek Bridge. On the same day at the Rail Pond were 2 Virginia Rails and 5 babies (DH).

Dan and Wini Nelson traveled down to Texas in early April...and toted up 208 species! Highlights were Hooked-billed Kite (a life bird), Golden-cheeked Warbler, 2 White-tailed Hawks, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, 40-50 Up-land Sandpipers, Buff-billed Hummingbird, 2 Clay-colored Robins, 2 male Blue Buntings (singing), White-collared Seedeater. In the Lower Valley, Dan and Wini watched a kettle of 1500 - 2000 Broadwinged Hawks fly by... lasted half an hour. In Salineno, they saw a pair of Green Kingfishers, 10-15 Brown Jays, Green Jays and 3 Audubon's (Black-headed) Orioles.

On a pelagic trip to Cordell Banks 4/19, weather was sunny, the seas rough: 7 Black-footed Albatross followed the Stardust for hours; also numerous were migrating Pacific Loons. A raft of over 200 Sooty Shearwaters were settled in the water, plus innumerable fly-bys. Bonaparte's Gulls were in breeding plumage and Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets were seen. The Old Squaw is still hanging out at Spud Point. (KC, RR, JS, MOB)

Observers: Terry Babineaux, Janet Bosshard, Kurt Campbell, Hal & Olive Corey, Deyea Harper, John Klobas, Richard Merriss, Dan & Wini Nelson, Susan Patla, Ruth Rudesill, Greg Shepherd, Jean Smith.

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS

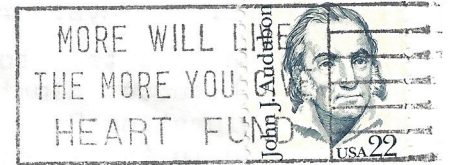
An orientation seminar on April 5 launched the crews that will initiate the Breeding Bird Atlas for Sonoma County. Betty Burrige and Doug Ellis outlined procedures and clues to nesting behavior. Then the volunteers noted their territory preferences and were assigned blocks.

RRDS members who are ranch owners or who know large landowners who might be willing to allow access to their land for the Breeding Bird Atlas, are asked to get in touch with Betty Burrige, 527-0225. Access to back-country and ranch land is essential to the success of this project.

Organized in 1962, the purpose of the club is to encourage the study and conservation of birds, other wildlife and their habitat. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, September through May, at 7:30 PM, in Room 221 of Darwin Hall, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA 94928.

OFFICERS

President - Kathy Mugele, 15420 Woodside, Glen Ellen, 95442	938-2134
Vice-President - Janet Bosshard, 434 Hendley St, Santa Rosa 95404	526-5883
Secretary - Ruth Rudesill, PO Box 371, Kenwood 95452	833-6026
Treasurer - Don Johnston, 475 Vine Ave, Sebastopol 95472	823-2245
Field Trips - Richard Merriss, 2046 Hearn Ave, Santa Rosa 95401	525-8629
Observations - Hal Corey, 422 Ridgeway, Santa Rosa 95401	542-8429
Social - Shirley Myers, 4815 Valley Quail Lane, Santa Rosa 95401	823-9512
KITE TALES - Jean Smith, 519 Sunnyvale Dr, Healdsburg 95448	433-2542
Christmas Count - Doug Ellis, PO Box 155, Eldridge 95431	833-4344



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