

Kite Tales

OCTOBER

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Volume 21, No. 2

Sonoma County

1986

COMING ATTRACTIONS

October 9, Thursday, 7:30 PM - General Meeting

Speaker for our meeting this month will be Dr. Stephen F. Bailey, who manages collections at the California Academy of Sciences. Dr. Bailey will show slides and talk about "Identification of Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks in the Field".

October 11, Saturday - Field Trip to Bodega Bay

Dr. Jack Arnold will lead this trip to check on our wintering shorebirds and waterbirds. They should be settling in in good numbers by this time. Perhaps a jaeger, Peregrine Falcon or Merlin will streak by.

Meeting place is the Tides Parking Lot at 8 AM. In case of rain, please check with Jack at 539-4544.

November 16, Sunday - Field Trip to Willow Creek Road

Doug Ellis offers two starting times for this expedition: 4:30 AM for owling. The Willow Creek area is prime habitat for owls. Those that have been heard here on past trips are Northern Pygmy, Spotted, Screech, Great Horned and Saw-whet.

Those who prefer a later hour will meet at 8AM for other landbirds, which might include Varied Thrushes and Hermit Thrushes, Winter Wrens and who knows what?

Meeting place for all is the parking area in Occidental near Neqri's Restaurant. The trip will end at Jenner.

RROS DUES ARE PAYABLE NOW FOR 1986-87 YEAR

If you have not already paid your annual membership fee, please send your check, made out to RROS, to Treasurer Wini Nelson, 400 Sunnyslope Avenue, Petaluma, CA 94952. Or you can bring it to the General Meeting on October 9. Dues are \$7 for Family, \$5.50 for Individual, \$3 for Student. Memberships cover the period from June 1986 to June 1987 and include a subscription to KITE TALES.

If you receive a notice of non-payment with this issue and you know you have paid, please check with Wini Nelson to be sure she has received your check. Thanks to everybody for prompt attention to this detail.

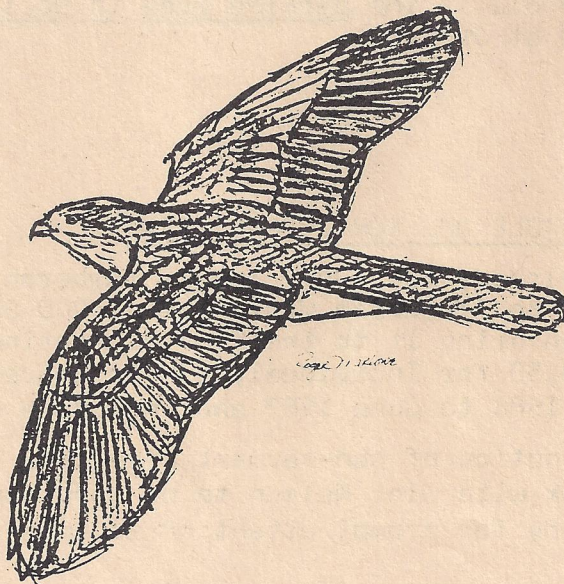
FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Four Eastern warblers made birding at Point Reyes on September 20 a roaring success! A Prothonotary Warbler at the Nunes Ranch, challenging the sunshine with his bright plumage, was a life bird for most of the observers. Also at the Nunes Ranch was an immature American Redstart, nervously fanning his yellow-patterned tail feathers. Down at the New Willows was an Ovenbird which did not light long enough for everyone to get a good look. At the Abandoned Ranch, on the way home, Betty Burrige spotted a Chestnut-sided Warbler with brilliant lime-green head and back, seen by a few lucky others.

Other highlighters for the day were a Black Scoter near the Fish Docks, a possible Least Flycatcher at the Lighthouse, and Pectoral and Baird's Sandpipers at the Spaletta Ranch farm pond. A Ferruginous Hawk flew over Nunes Ranch.

Mike Parmeter, assisted by Ruth Rudesill, led the group of 22 birders on this beautiful warm, sunny day. The total list of 80 species included:

Common Loon, Red-throated Loon, Pacific Loon (?), Horned Grebe, Western Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Brown Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Brandt's Cormorant, Snowy Egret, Cinnamon Teal, Surf Scoter, Black Scoter, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, California Quail, American Coot, Whimbrel (Spaletta Plateau), Spotted Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Willet, Black-bellied Plover, Killdeer, Red-necked Phalarope, Western Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Heerman's Gull, Mourning Dove, Great-horned Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Northern Flicker, Black Phoebe, Western Wood Pewee, Willow Flycatcher, Western Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher (?), Horned Lark (Spaletta Plateau), Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Scrub Jay, Northern Raven, Hermit Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Western Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, Warbling Vireo, Ovenbird, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, American Redstart, Prothonotary Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Tri-colored Blackbird, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak (Lighthouse), Lazuli Bunting, House Finch, American and Lesser Goldfinch, Savannah Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow.



OBSERVATIONS

Dick Ashford 996-7508
731 Austin St., Sonoma 95476

Highlighting the observations this month was the Dotterel, seen by many observers at Point Reyes (Spaletta Plateau) from about 6 - 10 September (BDP, KC, RR, DN, WN, et al). Other observations:

Marin Coast / Point Reyes National Seashore:

- 8/23 - Bolinas Lagoon: 8 Baird's Sandpipers, Peregrine Falcon (DA)
Bolinas Sewer Ponds: 2 Virginia Rails, 1 Baird's Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs (DA)
- 9/5 - Spaletta Ranch: 1 Baird's Sandpiper (B&BR)
- 9/7 - Abbott's Lagoon: Red-necked Grebe in breeding plumage (KC, RR)
Drake's Beach: Eastern Kingbird, Magnolia Warbler (RR)
- 9/8 - Fish Docks: Red-eyed Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (DN)
- 9/13 - Nunes Ranch: Blackpoll Warbler (BDP)
New Willows: Eastern Solitary Vireo (blue-headed form) (BDP)
Drake's Beach: Black-and-white Warbler (BDP)
- 9/13 - Palomarin: Least Flycatcher (PRBO staff via KC)
- 9/18 - Hawk Mountain: Sharp-shinned Hawks, Cooper's Hawks, Prairie Falcon (RM)

Sonoma Coast

- 9/3 - Salmon Creek: 2 American Bitterns, 2 Black-crowned Night-herons, Green-winged Teal, 3 Virginia Rails, Greater Yellowlegs (FB, MOB)
Bodega Bay: Heerman's Gull, Thayer's Gull, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Marbled Murrelet, Elegant Tern (FB, MOB)
- 9/11 - Goat Rock: Red-breasted Mergansers, Clark's Grebe (FB, MOB)
Bodega Bay: Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Long-billed Curlews, Common Yellowthroat, Virginia Rail, Osprey, 2 Black-crowned Night-herons (FB, MOB)
- 9/14 - Doran Park pond: Pectoral Sandpiper (BDP)
- 9/16 - Bodega Bay: Arctic Tern, 15 Red Knots, Peregrine Falcon, Nashville Warbler (RM)

Highway 37 area

- 9/13 - Skaggs Island: 65 species, including Warbling Vireo, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Common Merganser, Long-billed Curlews, and a Barn Owl roosting 5 feet away from 2 Great Horned Owls (DA, NSAS)
- 9/14 - Tubbs Island: 30 species, including 100 Long-billed Curlews, 200 Marbled Godwits, 200 American Avocets, 30 Black-crowned Night-herons, Ring-necked Pheasant (1 male, plus a female with a brood of 15 very young chicks) and a Peregrine Falcon wearing falconer's jesses....apparently, the bird which was lost in Petaluma. If you see a bird matching this description, please phone Dick Ashford. (DA)

Greater Santa Rosa area

- 8/13 - Geyser Peak Winery: 2 Great Horned Owls (FB)
- 8/29 - Channel Drive: Wood Ducks (4 adults, 9 imm.) (B&BR)
- 9/8 - Annadel State Park: 2 Pileated Woodpeckers (FB)
- ??? - Calistoga Road: Cedar Waxwings, Hermit Thrush (JA)

Other

- 8/3 - Cader Lane ponds, Petaluma: 4 Wilson's Phalaropes, 1 Spotted Sandpiper in breeding plumage, 2 Lesser Yellowlegs (BDP)
- 8/9 - Mt. Pinos vicinity: 3 California Condors (the final 3 remaining in the wild..DN)
- ??? - Chincopin, Yosemite N.P.: Barn Owl heard - believed to be one of the highest elevations (6,000 feet) that this species has been recorded (DN)

Observers: Dr. John R. Arnold, Dick Ashford, Faye Beeman, Kurt Campbell, Roger Marlowe, Napa-Solano Audubon Society, Dan Nelson, Mini Nelson, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Bob and Bertha Rains, Ruth Rudesill

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY was organized in 1962, 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.

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OFFICERS

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Observations - Dick Ashford, Jr, 731 Austin St, Sonoma 95476	996-7508
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