

Kite Tales

APRIL

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Volume 22, No. 8

1988

COMING ATTRACTIONS

April 14, Thursday, 7:30 PM: General Meeting

Dr. Pepper Trail, Research Associate in the Ornithology Dept, California Academy of Sciences, will tell about Cock-of-the-Rock, a member of the South American family Cotingidae. Dr. Trail has a fine collection of slides.

During the business meeting, nominations will be presented for the coming year's officers and committee chairs. The Nomination Committee, Dr. Jack Arnold, Bertha Rains and Jean Smith, will offer the following slate:

President	Mark Delwiche	Social	June Persson
Vice-president	Wini Nelson	Field Trips	Dick Ashford
Secretary	Olive Corey	Observations	Bob Rains
Treasurer	Sherryl Royce	<u>Kite Tails</u>	Bertha Rains
	Christmas Count	Doug Ellis	

Nominations may, also, be made from the floor, after which new officers will be elected.

April 16, Saturday: Madrone Audubon Birdathon

Birders may join either of two teams this day for Madrone's annual Birdathon, or they may do their own Birdathon during any 24-hour period from April 1 to May 15. Sponsors for all teams are SO welcome!! For more details, please see Page 2.

April 16-17, Saturday and Sunday: PRBO's San Francisco Bay Shorebird Census

Point Reyes Bird Observatory will hold its first census of shorebirds using the Bay's tidal flats. This census is designed for volunteer participation: experienced observers will conduct counts of specific sites, and novices can assist the counters. The census is timed to coincide with the peak of shorebird spring migration and should be a spectacular event.

For more information, ask for Coordinators Dave Shuford or Lynne Stenzel at PRBO, 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach 94970; (415) 868-1221.

April 30, Saturday, 7:30 AM: Field Trip to Ida Clayton Road

Make Parmeter will lead this trip, starting from Ida Clayton Road's junction with Hwy 128 (about 7½ miles northwest of Calistoga). Birds to be expected are a variety of raptors, flycatchers, warblers, and a good chance of California Thrasher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Mountain Quail. With limited parking along this narrow, twisting road, maximum carpooling is recommended.

May 14, Saturday - Field Trip to King Ridge Road with Doug Ellis.

May 28-30, Memorial Day Weekend at Tule Lake and Lava Beds National Monument. Ruth Rudesill welcomes campsite neighbors.

Details in May KITE TAILS

MADRONE AUDUBON BIRDATHON, APRIL 16

Two different treks are offered this day for anyone who would like to join the fun. Ruth Rudesill and Roger Marlowe will head one team, leaving at 5:30 AM from the Fast Gas station in Kenwood for owling and Poorwills. They will be at Annadel SP, Channel Drive parking lot, at 8:30 AM for those who would like to join them a bit later. They will proceed westward to Sebastopol, eventually ending up at Bodega Bay. A Big Day is anticipated! (Phone:833-6026)

Richard Merriss has decided to walk his Birdathon through the Santa Rosa area and invites others to share the experience. He will start at Annadel SP, Channel Drive parking lot, at 5:30 AM, and will bird around there for an hour. He will then head west, aiming for Julliard Park around noon. He will then bird along to Sebastopol, ending at the Boys Club field around 5:30 PM. He figures to see around 100 birds. Richard's phone number is 525-8629.

Sponsors, of course, are what make the Birdathon pay off, so all are welcome. Benefits this year will go to Madrone Audubon Society.

REPORT ON FIELD TRIP TO TUBBS ISLAND

A small group of birders made the trip to Tubbs Island Refuge on San Pablo Bay on March 12. They saw large flocks of shorebirds on this mild, sunny day, but fewer than expected numbers and species of ducks. They had excellent views of perched and hovering Black-shouldered Kites and many Ring-necked Pheasants. They found many feathers and other remains of pheasants along the trails, indicating that some predators are enjoying high living. A lone, early Barn Swallow put in an appearance.

Birds seen were Pied-billed Grebe, Snowy and Great Egrets, Black-crowned Night-heron, Mallard, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Turkey Vulture, Black-shouldered Kite, Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Harrier, Ring-necked Pheasant, American Coot, Killdeer, Long-billed Curlew, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Western Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, American Avocet, Belted Kingfisher, Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark, Barn Swallow, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Common Yellowthroat, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Savannah Sparrow, White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows, and Song Sparrow.

SONOMA EARTH AWARENESS WEEK, Monday - Friday, April 4 - 8

A series of noontime and evening programs on environmental issues will be presented on the Sonoma State University campus this week. Some of the noontime programs feature music, some lectures and slide shows, and one, on Wednesday, will have Pomo Indian Dancers. The evening programs offer film and slide lectures. For complete information on these events, contact PRBO member Forest Tomlinson, 4347 Langner Ave., Santa Rosa 95407; 585-8706.

BIRDING COURSES OFFERED AT SIERRA NEVADA FIELD CAMPUS, SF STATE UNIVERSITY

Behavior of Birds, June 6 - 10, presented by Dr. Luis Baptista of the California Academy of Sciences

Birds of the Northern Sierra, June 13 - 17, presented by Dave Shuford, biologist with Point Reyes Bird Observatory

These courses will be given at SFSU's mountain campus on the Yuba Pass, right at the base of the Sierra Buttes. For further information, write Sierra Nevada Field Campus, School of Science, 1600 Holloway Ave, SF 94132-9987; (415) 338-1571; or (415) 759-0970.

OBSERVATIONS

Dick Ashford 996-7508
731 Austin St, Sonoma 95476

Sonoma County: 3/12 - Bodega Bay: Peregrine Falcon, Sora, Virginia Rail (DA, RS, MOB). 3/13 - Sugarloaf Ridge SP: Saw-whet Owl (RR).

Marin County: 1/30 - Las Gallinas Sewer Ponds: Burrowing Owl, Merlin (DA). Mid-February to present - Cheese Factory: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (DA, B & BR). 3/13 - Stafford Lake: Ross' Goose, Golden Eagle (DA, RS, MOB). Also seen this day by same group: Novato (Bedford Rd) - Blue-winged Teal, Barrow's Goldeneye; and at Pine Gulch Creek - Swamp Sparrow.

North Coast: (All observations by DT). 1/24 - MacKerricher SP: Wandering Tattler; 1/30 - Manchester SP: Brown Pelican, Tree Swallows; 2/14 - Pudding Creek: Pileated Woodpecker; 2/20 - MacKerricher SP: Burrowing Owls, Brown Pelican; 2/28 - Van Damme SP: 2 Gray Jays, 2 Male Harlequin Ducks; 3/5 - MacKerricher SP: Red-necked Grebe, Burrowing Owls.

Mare Island: 2/4 - Clark's Grebe, Barrow's Goldeneye (DA); 3/18 - Short-eared Owl (DA, RL); 3/22 - Old Squaw, 1st winter male (DA).

Observers: Dick Ashford, Robin Leong, Bertha Rains, Ruth Rudesill, Rich Stallcup, Dorothy Tobkin, Bob Rains.

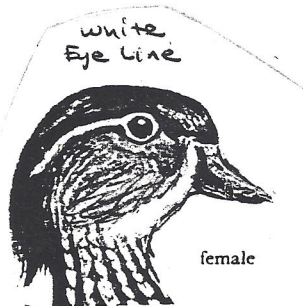
MANDARIN DUCK SIGHTINGS

Mandarin Ducks are thriving in eastern Sonoma County and may be spreading. Betty Burrige and Ruth Rudesill would like to receive reports of any sightings of this Asian species for the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

This bird is common in wildfowl private parks. Escapees have apparently established themselves in Sonoma, Glen Ellen and off Chalk Hill Road. California Dept of Fish & Game has set up Wood Duck nest boxes in some of these areas, and information is needed as to who is using them: Wood Ducks - or Mandarin?

Especially important are all sightings of females with young, carefully described. The female Mandarin and female Wood Duck look very similar. The Mandarin has an eye ring and eye stripe; the Wood Duck has a tear-shaped eye patch. (The males of both species are distinctive and well illustrated in most field guides.)

If you wish to observe both species, they can be found along Sonoma Creek off Warm Springs Road between Bennett Valley Road and Sonoma Mountain Road in Glen Ellen.



Mandarin Duck



Wood Duck

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY was organized in 1962 to encourage the study 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, Darwin Hall, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park CA 94928.

OFFICERS

President - Ruth Rudesill, PO Box 371, Kenwood 95452 833-6026
 Vice-president - Mark Delwiche, 970 Maytum, Sebastopol 95472 823-5630
 Secretary - Olive Corey, 422 Ridgway, Santa Rosa 95401 542-8429
 Treasurer - Wini Nelson, 400 Sunnyslope Ave, Petaluma 94952 762-6152
 Field Trips - Bob Rains, 450-A Las Casitas, Santa Rosa 95401 528-6785
 Observations - Dick Ashford, 731 Austin, Sonoma 95476 996-7508
 Social - June Persson, 4757 Snyder Ln, #69, Rohnert Park 94928 585-3615
 Christmas Count - Doug Ellis, PO Box 155, Eldridge 95431 (work) 585-0226
 KITE TALES - Jean Smith, 519 Sunnyvale Dr, Healdsburg 95448 433-2542

RRDS dues are \$10 for Family, \$7.50 for Individual, \$3 for Student. Memberships cover the period from September 1987 to June 1988 and include a subscription to KITE TALES. Checks should be made out to RRDS and sent to Treasurer Wini Nelson, 400 Sunnyslope Ave, Petaluma, CA 94952.

Jean C. Smith
519 Sunnyvale Drive
Healdsburg, CA 95448

