

Kite Tales

MAY

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Volume 22, No. 9 Sonoma County

1988

COMING ATTRACTIONS

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

Mike Parmeter will meet the group at the junction of Ida Clayton Road and Hwy 128, about 7½ miles northwest of Calistoga. Carpooling is recommended as the road is narrow and twisting. Good birds up this way: Gnatcatchers, many raptors, possibly California Thrasher and Mountain Quail.

May 12, Thursday, 6 PM: Spring Potluck at Arnolds' Home

Dr. and Mrs. John R. Arnold have invited RROS members to have the potluck at their home, 199 Calistoga Road. Chickadees and such have been taking potluck there for years, and now we shall join them! Thank you, Dr. and Mrs. Arnold.

Please bring a favorite dish to share: casserole, salad, dessert or snack food. Also, bring your own beverage and table service. After dinner will be a short business meeting, welcoming our new officers. Elected last meeting, they are: President, Mark Delwiche; Vice-president, Wini Nelson; Secretary, Olive Corey; Treasurer, Sherryl Royce; Social, June Persson; Field Trips, Dick Ashford; Observations, Bob Rains; KITE TALES Editor, Bertha Rains; and Christmas Count, Doug Ellis.

May 14, Saturday, Field Trip to King's Ridge Road

Meet for carpooling at Bailey Field, SRJC, at 7 AM. Parking at some of the stops on this trip is very limited, so carpool if you can. Or meet at 8 AM where Hwy 116 crosses Austin Creek Bridge near Austin Creek Rd.

Doug Ellis will lead us on a search for breeding birds and Spring migrants, such as Golden Eagle, Western Screech Owl, American Dipper, Pileated Woodpecker, Solitary Vireo, Common Merganser, Wood Duck, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Lark Sparrow and Chipping Sparrow.

May 28 - 30: Memorial Day Weekend at Tule Lake and Lava Beds National Monument

Ruth Rudesill will be driving up Friday, May 27, and will try to nail down two campsites. Lava Beds campground Visitor Center phone is (916) 667-2282, but they do not take reservations. The cost is \$5/night. The nights will be cold, and stores are not close, so bring warm bedding and plenty of food...and warm clothes. For more information, please call Ruth at 833-6026, if you are going.

This beautiful high desert country is home to innumerable nesting ducks and geese, Golden and Bald Eagles, Mountain Bluebirds and Say's Phoebes, Prairie Falcons and Pinyon Jays. Barn Owls have been flushed from the lava tubes, and Great Horned Owls nest in niches on the escarpment. Besides the Lava Beds and Tule Lake areas, we will bird the Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge.

RROS DUES ARE NOW PAYABLE

Memberships may be paid at the Pot Luck Supper on May 12 or may be mailed to Treasurer Sherryl Royce, 2340 Silk Road, Windsor, CA 95942. This coming year, dues will be \$10 for Family, \$7.50 for Individual, \$3 for Student. Memberships cover the period from now until June, 1989 and include a subscription to KITE TALES.

OBSERVATIONS

Dick Ashford

Sonoma County

2/6 - 3/26 - Stage Gulch/Old Adobe Rd: 2 White Pelicans (BMc, DA, GM)
Mid-Feb - Present - Sonoma (Nathanson Creek): - 2 pair Mandarin Ducks (PB, DA)
3/29 - Santa Rosa: White-throated Sparrow at Wikiup (B & BR)
4/7 - Santa Rosa, Calistoga Rd: White-throated Sparrow (JA)
Early April - Petaluma: White-throated Sparrow (WN)
4/16 - Various Birdathon highlights: Sage Sparrow, Blue-winged Teal, Brant
(many!), Pileated Woodpecker, Yellow-breasted Chat (RR et al)

North Coast (all observations by DT)

MacKerricher SP: 3/26, 4/2 - Lesser Golden Plovers
4/2 - Burrowing Owl
3/31, 4/2 - Merlin (pair)
Sea Ranch: 3/27 - Harlequin Duck (male)

Other (all from RR)

Hawaiian trip 3/19 - 3/27: Red-footed Booby (nesting), Wedge-tailed Shearwater (nesting), Laysan Albatross, Red-tailed and White-tailed Tropicbirds, Great Frigatebird, Hawaiian Black-necked Stilts, Hawaiian Duck, Hawaiian Gallinule, Brown Booby, Fairy Tern (nesting), Sooty Tern (nesting), Brown Noddy (nesting); AND Elepaio, Amakihi, Anianiau, Akeoa, Iiwi, Apapane.

Observers: Dick Ashford, Dr. John R. Arnold, Phyllis Baekgaard, Bob McLean, Gerry Mugele, Winnie Nelson, Bertha Rains, Bob Rains, Ruth Rudesill, Dorothy Tobkin.

BIRDATHON WALK

Richard Merriss and Rick LeBaudeur hiked across Santa Rosa for Madrone Audubon's Birdathon on April 16. They started with the dawn chorus at Channel Drive in Annadel SP, where the Chats were singing. They walked over to Spring Lake and on to Lake Ralphine.

They found Band-tailed Pigeons in the walnut orchard along Montgomery Drive, and about that time a flock of six Canada Geese went honking overhead. On their way through Doyle Park, they found a Bushtit nest. They made their way to Julliard Park and crossed the freeway on the overhead at Burbank School, landing in a small park on the west side, Olive Park.

They skirted Santa Rosa Creek along West 3rd Street as far as Fulton Rd. Then they followed the railroad right-of-way to the Llano Rd sewer ponds. At Brown Farm pond, a Golden Eagle flew overhead. They next headed west on the road to the Laguna de Santa Rosa, ending up at the baseball field near the Sebastopol Community Center, where they spotted a Cattle Egret.

Altogether they observed 98 birds for the Birdathon...a fine day's total!

"BIRDS OF SONOMA COUNTY" IS BEING REPRODUCED.

Mike Parmeter is adding updated pages to the booklet he co-authored with the late Gordon Bolander, and the volume will soon be available for sale. Thanks are due to Mike for his work of revision and to Bob Rains, who is arranging for the reproduction. This edition of 700 copies is being financed by the Hal Corey Memorial Fund, with additional funds coming from some RROS members, to be reimbursed from proceeds of the book. It will be good to have BIRDS OF SONOMA COUNTY on hand again.

BIRDATHON RIDE

Ruth Rudesill started forth on her Birdathon April 16 at Kenwood, where she met Karen Nagel, Bill Paine and John McDonagh. They listened for owls at Sugarloaf Ridge SP and on Cavedale Rd. They heard Great Horned Owls; and in the chaparral along Cavedale Rd they found Pileated Woodpecker, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and a Sage Sparrow.

Proceeding on to Annadel SP, they met Roger Marlowe and John Chostner along Channel Drive. There they saw Chat, Pileated Woodpecker and Pygmy Owl.

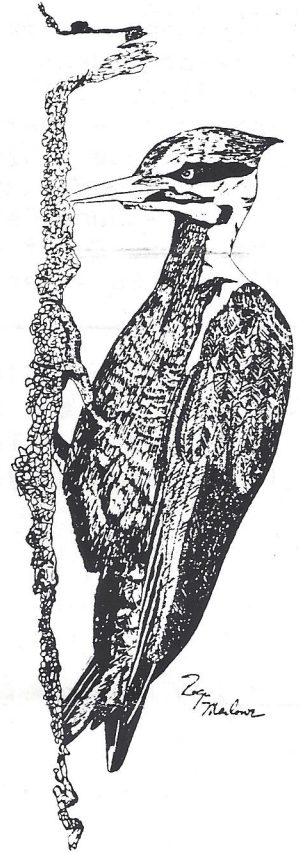
The Birdathoners then drove down Russian River to Duncans Mill. They saw several Osprey nests, and Osprey were fishing at the mouth of the river. A Sharp-shinned Hawk was spotted at Bridgehaven.

Goat Rock was a staging area for thousands of migrating Western Grebes. Gray Whales were breaching near Goat Rock - a special bonus for the birders!

In Bodega Bay were a large flock of migrant Brant. Blue-winged Teal were spotted in the bay near the entrance to the Marine Lab. The grebes, loons and Ruddy Turnstones are all coming into breeding plumage - spectacular!! Also, said Ruth, they had a good look at the Virginia Rail.

Turning back towards Sebastopol, the birders stopped at Llano Rd sewer ponds, where they found another Blue-winged Teal and some Wood Ducks.

Altogether, the Birdathoners spotted 136 species for an excellent day's work.



CREDIT WHERE DUE -

Last month's article on Mandarin Ducks and Wood Ducks was written by Ruth Rudesill, who provided the illustrations of the female ducks. Thanks to Ruth for this information...and let's be watching for those nesting Mandarin Ducks! Betty Burrige (527-0225) and Ruth (833-6026) would like to know about them.

The word from Bryan Bland, a professional British birder, is that Mandarin Ducks, since being introduced to England long ago, are thriving there far better than they ever did in their native China. They seem to like Sonoma County, too, and favor the same nest boxes as our native Wood Ducks.

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY IS NOW INCORPORATED!

Warmest thanks go to Bertha Rains and to Thom Knudson, Attorney-at-Law, who did the paperwork and the legal work to accomplish our incorporation and to achieve tax deductibility. This healthy status for our organization means that members need no longer be concerned about personal liability for RROS activities, and that contributions and expenses on behalf of RROS are tax deductible.

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 - Mark Delwiche, 970 Maytum, Sebastopol 95472 | 823-5630 |
| Vice-president - Wini Nelson, 400 Sunnslope Ave, Petaluma 94952 | 762-6152 |
| Secretary - Olive Corey, 422 Ridgway, Santa Rosa 95401 | 542-8429 |
| Treasurer - Sherryl Royce, 2340 Silk Rd, Windsor 95942 | 525-8141 |
| Field Trips - Dick Ashford, 731 Austin, Sonoma 95476 | 996-7508 |
| Observations - Bob Rains, 450-A Las Casitas, Santa Rosa 95401 | 528-6785 |
| 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 - Bertha Rains, 450-A Las Casitas, Santa Rosa 95401 | 528-6785 |

RROS dues are \$10 for Family, \$7.50 for Individual, \$3 for Student. Memberships cover the period from September 1988 to June 1989 and include a subscription to KITE TALES. Checks should be made out to RROS and sent to Treasurer Sherryl Royce, 2340 Silk Rd, Windsor, CA 95942.

Bertha Rains
450-A Las Casitas.
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

