

# Kite Tales

MAY

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
Vol 23, No. 9

1989

Sonoma County

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

### May 11, Thursday, 6:00 p.m. - General Meeting

Time: 6:00 p.m. Social  
6:30 p.m. Dinner  
7:30 p.m. Meeting

Meeting Place: Home of  
Jack and Ardell  
Arnold  
199 Calistoga Rd.

For the last meeting of the year, We will meet at the home of Jack and Ardell Arnold for a potluck dinner and meeting. Those who went to the May 1988 meeting will long remember the rain, the gracious hospitality, and the delicious food. We are looking forward to another delightful evening, hoping

for no rain so we can all enjoy the Arnold's garden.

### May 20, Saturday - Field Trip to Wantrup Wildlife Sanctuary

Time: 6:45 a.m. Bailey Field  
for car pooling  
8:00 a.m. for field trip

Meeting Place: Bailey Field  
for car pooling  
Wantrup Wildlife  
Sanctuary

Wantrup Wildlife Sanctuary, located in Pope Valley, is maintained by the Napa Land Trust. It is not normally open to the public, but our leader, Mike Rippey, has obtained special permission for our visit. Mike is an expert birder and very familiar with the area.

Mike is one of the folks working on the fledgling Napa-Solano Breeding Bird Atlas, and promises us an interesting day of birding. Wantrup has a varied habitat -- oak savannah, chapparal, grasslands, and even some ponds.

After we've fully explored this new (to us) area, we will have several options: Lake Berryessa, Las Posadas State Park, Lake Hennessey, or Bothe-Napa State Park. Each of these areas offers something different, and in some cases we will see birds that do not normally occur in our area.

For those with the time and energy, Mike is leading another trip that evening for the Napa-Solano Audubon Society. It will be an owling trip, preceded by a potluck supper and some breeding bird atlasing at Bothe-Napa State Park, and RROS members are invited.

Directions: From Santa Rosa, take Calistoga Rd. to Hwy 29. Proceed south on Hwy 29 to Deer Park Rd., turning left (east) toward Angwin. Deer Park Rd. becomes Howell Mt. Rd.; take it through Angwin. In approximately 4 miles, the road loops to the right, becoming Chiles & Pope Valley Rd. Proceed about 1 mile, turning left on Pope Canyon Rd. One more mile, and you will come to Hardin Rd., where there is a small airport. Turn right on Hardin Rd. (a dead end road). Follow this road for a couple of miles to the sanctuary, where Mike will meet us at the gate.

**FIELD TRIP REPORT**  
Tennessee Valley, Marin County  
April 16, 1989

We six had an invigorating 3 mile walk through this lush green valley on a cool, windy and very overcast day. Lots of colorful wildflowers were blooming - especially beautiful were the wild iris in many subtle hues, the purple lupine, and the bright red Indian paint brush.

Forty common local breeding bird species were seen. Star of the show was a male red-winged blackbird who gave a new meaning to the word "dashing" with a dazzling and passionate display with his fancy red epaulets for the lucky, though somewhat indifferent, lady love.

Of note was a sighting by John McDonagh of a mountain lion near the main trail. The ranger told us that other such reports had all been at times other than during full daylight.

Species seen were:

Pied-billed Grebe	Common Raven
Brandt's Cormorant	Chestnut-backed Chickadee
Pelagic Cormorant	Bushtit
Great Blue Heron	Western Bluebird
Mallard	American Robin
Turkey Vulture	Wrenit
Northern Harrier	European Starling
Red-tailed Hawk	Hutton's Vireo
American Kestrel	Orange-crowned Warbler
California Quail	Wilson's Warbler
American Coot	Black-headed Grosbeak
Gull species	Brown Towhee
Rock Dove	Savannah Sparrow
Mourning Dove	Song Sparrow
Anna's Hummingbird	White-crowned Sparrow
Downy Woodpecker	Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Flicker	Red-winged Blackbird
Violet-green Swallow	Brewer's Blackbird
Barn Swallow	House Finch
Scrub Jay	American Goldfinch

Report submitted by Betty Burridge,  
Trip Leader

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO BY-LAWS**

After considerable discussion regarding the number of persons on the Board of Directors, (presently eight), Clyde Nelson moved that the Article XI, Section 4 of the By-laws be amended to state the Board of Directors be the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and the past-president. The motion was passed subject to the approval of legal counsel. This limitation was made as the number of directors would be reduced from 8 to 5.

Having received approval of the motion by Thom Knudsen, legal counsel, the motion will be presented for a final vote at the May meeting.



## OBSERVATIONS

### Water and Shorebirds

**Red-necked Grebe** 3/19 to 4/20, 6 at McKerricher SP (DT) - 4/8, 24 at Sea Ranch (DE). **Brown Pelican** 4/20, Tomales Bay (JMCD) - 10 at mouth of Russian River (DE). **Green-backed Heron** 4/5, Fort Bragg (DT) - 4/15, Wikiup (DE,RR,B&BR). **Brant** 4/14, flock flying north, Bodega Head (B&BR). **Green-winged Teal** 4/20, 100s at Tomales Bay. **Cinnamon Teal** 4/20, 100s at Tomales Bay (JMCD). **Wood Duck** 4/5, Fort Bragg (DT). **Greater Scaup** 4/20, 1000s at Tomales Bay (JMCD). **Oldsquaw** 4/8, 6 off Gualala (DE). **Common Merganser** 4/9, 27 in Ten Mile Creek. **Lesser Golden Plover** 4/9, 2 at McKerricher SP. **Long-billed Curlew** 4/6, McKerricher SP (DT). **Glaucous-winged Gull** 4/17, 3rd year plumage, mouth of Russian River, **Black-legged Kittiwake** 4/8, 30 at Bodega Head (DN). **Pigeon Guillemot** 4/15, 25 in group at Arch Rock (DE). **Marbled Murrelet** 4/9, mouth of Russian River (RR).

### Raptors

**Golden Eagle** 4/16, Rockpile Rd. (RL,RM,mob). **Osprey** 4/20, nesting on pole, Tomales Bay Park (JMCD). **Northern Pygmy Owl** 4/16, Rockpile Rd. (RL,RM,mob). **Burrowing Owl** 3/25, McKerricher SP (DT).

### Other Non-passerines

**Blue Grouse** 4/6, King Ridge Rd. (DN,WN) - 4/7, 3 at Skaggs Springs Rd. - 4/8, 2 at Rockpile Rd. (DE). **Wild Turkey** 4/7, Skaggs Spring Rd. - 4/8, Rockpile Rd. (DE) - 4/17, Pepperwood Ranch (B&BR). **Poorwill** 4/13, Ida Clayton Rd. (DN). **Vaux's Swift** 4/15, Wikiup (DE,RR) - 4/22, McKerricher SP (DT). **Rufous Hummingbird** 4/6 to 4/24, Wikiup (B&BR). **Lewis' Woodpecker** 4/3, Rockpile Rd. - 4/3, Chileno Valley Rd. (DN) - 4/9, Rockpile Rd. (RR). **Pileated Woodpecker** 4/5, Fort Bragg (DT) - 4/17, Pepperwood Ranch (B&BR).

### Passerines

**Western Kingbird** 4/3, Spring Hill Rd. Chileno Valley (DN). **Ash-throated Flycatcher** 4/15, Pepperwood Ranch. **Olive-sided Flycatcher** 4/10, Wikiup (B&BR). **Purple Martin** 4/6, King Ridge Rd. (DN) - 4/7, 7 at Gualala (DE). **American Dipper** 4/6, feeding young, above Cazadero (WN, DN). **California Thrasher** 3/24, to 4/11, Wikiup (B&BR). **Black-throated Gray Warbler** 4/3, Rockpile Rd. **MacGillivray's Warbler** 4/14, Ida Clayton Rd. **Wilson's Warbler** 4/28, Henno Rd., Glen Ellen (DN). **Yellow-breasted Chat** 4/22, Annadel (DE) **Grasshopper Sparrow** 4/18, Pepperwood (B&BR) - 4/21, Jenner (DE). **Rufous-crowned Sparrow** 4/18, Pepperwood (B&BR). **Chipping Sparrow** 4/7, Pine Flat Rd. (DN) - 4/15, Pepperwood (B&BR). **White-throated Sparrow** 11/12 to 4/22, Petluma (WN) - 11/29 to 3/28, Wikiup (B&BR). **Western Tanager** 4/16, Rockpile Rd. (RL,Rm,mob).

### Observers

Doug Ellis, Rick LeBadour, Roger Marlowe, John McDonagh, Dan Nelson, Wini Nelson, Bob and Bertha Rains, Ruth Rudesill, many other birders.

## MONTEREY PELAGIC SEABIRD TRIP

There is still time to sign up for the May 13th Pelagic trip. See April Kite Tales for details. For reservations, contact Roger Marlowe: 401 Vine Ave., Sebastopol, CA 95472; phone (707)829-0705.

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 Sunnyslope Ave., Petaluma 94952	762-6152
Secretary - Olive Corey, 422 Ridgeway, Santa Rosa 95401	542-8429
Treasurer - Sherryl Royce, 2340 Silk Rd., Windsor 95942	525-8141

CHAIRMEN

Field Trips - Dick Ashford, 731 Austin, Sonoma 95476	996-7508
Observations - Bob Rains, 450A Las Casitas, Santa Rosa 95403	528-6785
Social - Jean Smith, 519 Sunnyvale, Healdsburg 95448	433-2542
Christmas Count - Doug Ellis, PO Box 155, Eldridge 95431	585-0226
Kite Tales - Bertha Rains, 450A Las Casitas 95403	528-6785

MEMBERSHIP DUES 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 Sherryl Royce, Treasurer, at 2340 Silk Rd., Windsor, CA 95942.

Bertha Rains  
450-A Las Casitas  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

