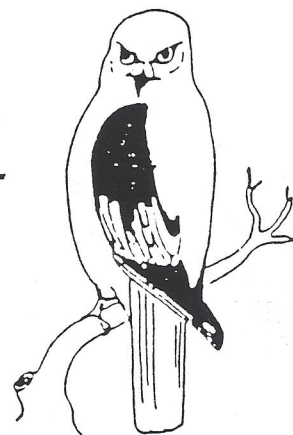


Kite Tales



MARCH 1991

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Vol. 15, No. 7
Sonoma County

COMING ATTRACTIONS

March 14, Thursday - 7:30 p.m. General Meeting

We are depending on you, the members, for the program - Slide Night. Bring your favorite slides of birds, flowers, scenery, whatever you think others would enjoy. Perhaps you don't consider yourself an expert photographer. No matter. If it's a "find the bird" picture, or one of those "what species is this one?" slide, bring them and join the fun.

March 16, Saturday - Field Trip to Salmon Creek

Time: 2:00 p.m. for Bodega Bay
6:00 p.m. for Owling

Meeting Place: Bodega Bay: Rail
Ponds
Owling: Bodega Cemetery

Doug Ellis will lead this owling trip along Salmon Creek. While Doug does not guarantee any species, he has called in Saw-whet Owls in the past, and has obtained responses from Spotted, Pygmy, Screech, and Great Horned Owls there. Early birders may

meet at the Rail Ponds at 2:00 p.m. for an afternoon at Bodega Bay. For those meeting at the Bodega Cemetery, the cemetery is just past the town of Bodega on the right side of the highway at the top of the hill before the junction to Hwy 1.

April 6, Saturday - Field Trip to King Ridge Road

Time: 7:30 a.m.

Meeting Place: Junction
of Hwy 116 and
Cazadero Rd.,
just beyond the
Austin Creek
Bridge

We'll look for the American Dipper on Austin Creek, and for Blue Grouse and Eagles up King Ridge Road. The varied habitat there - oak woodland and open fields offers a variety of spring migrants. Bring lunch for this all day trip. Carpooling will be appreciated as parking is limited up the ridge. Complete details will be repeated in the April Kite Tales.

Be sure to mark your calendar for these spring field trips scheduled by Dan Nelson and Ruth Rudesill:

May 11: Ida Clayton Road

May 25-27: Tule Lake

June 15, 16: Yosemite National Park

DEADLINE: March 26 is the deadline for the April Kite Tales.

FIELD TRIP REPORT

Russian River - Duncan's Mills to Bridgehaven

Cold, blustery weather limited the birds seen on this trip led by Ruth Rudesill. Even so, the 13 participants spent much of the time watching raptors; a subadult Bald Eagle soaring with a Ferruginous Hawk, 2 Red-tails, a Northern Harrier and a Kestrel. The hard-core birders who stayed after some had left were rewarded with a flock of Evening Grosbeaks up Willow Creek.

The 70 species seen were:

| | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Red-throated Loon | Bald Eagle imm. | Belted Kingfisher | Yellow-rumped Warbler |
| Common Loon | Northern Harrier | Hairy Woodpecker | Rufous-sided Towhee |
| Pied-billed Grebe | Sharp-shinned Hawk | Northern Flicker | California Towhee |
| Western Grebe | Red-shouldered Hawk | Black Phoebe | Savannah Sparrow |
| Double-crested Cormorant | Red-tailed Hawk | Tree Swallow | Song Sparrow |
| Pelagic Cormorant | Ferruginous Hawk | Steller's Jay | Golden-crowned Sparrow |
| Great Blue Heron | Golden Eagle | Scrub Jay | White-crowned Sparrow |
| Black-crowned Night-heron | American Kestrel | American Crow | Dark-eyed Junco |
| Canada Goose | California Quail | Common Raven | Red-winged Blackbird |
| Wood Duck | American Coot | Chestnut-b. Chickadee | Western Meadowlark |
| Mallard | Killdeer | Bushtit | Brewer's Blackbird |
| Canvasback | Spotted Sandpiper | Brown Creeper | Brown-headed Cowbird |
| Surf Scoter | Common Snipe | Marsh Wren | Purple Finch |
| Common Goldeneye | Ring-billed Gull | Western Bluebird | House Finch |
| Bufflehead | Western Gull | American Robin | Pine Siskin |
| Common Merganser | Glaucous-winged Gull | Wrentit | Evening Grosbeak |
| Red-breasted Merganser | Mourning Dove | European Starling | House Sparrow |
| Turkey Vulture | Allen's Hummingbird | | |

Participants: Olive Corey, Doug Ellis, Mary Finn, Betty Groce, Stephen Gross, Louise Johnston, John Klobas, John and Virginia McDonagh, Ruth Rudesill, Jean Smith, Suzanne Whaley, Cindy Young.

SUMMER BIRD COURSES

San Francisco State University offers natural history courses throughout the summer at the field campus at Yuba Pass.

| | |
|------------|--|
| June 3-7 | Bird Identification by Sound with Luis Baptista |
| June 8-15 | Bird Song Recording and Analysis with Greg Budney from Cornell Library of Natural Sounds |
| June 17-21 | Birds of the Sierra Nevada with Dave Shuford |
| Aug. 16-18 | Sierran Bird Banding with Dave DeSante |

For information and registration: Jim Steele
Sierra Nevada Field Campus
School of Science
San Francisco State University
San Francisco, CA 94132

Good News and Bad News

Eurasian Wigeon are in greater numbers this year. Golden Eagles have been seen more frequently, and often more than one at a time. White-throated and Fox Sparrows continue to feed in yards. Anna's Hummingbirds are absent or in reduced numbers at several feeders where they had been abundant.

Water and Shorebirds

Yellow-billed Loon 2/7, Bridgehaven (JM). Red-necked Grebe 2/10, 4 at McKerricher SP, 1 in full breeding plumage (DT). Sooty Shearwater 2/22, Bodega Head (DE). Snow Goose 2/22, Bodega Head (DE). Emperor Goose 2/15, Point Reyes (BDP) - 2/17, (RR) - 2/21, (JM). Canada Goose 2/2, 4 at Bodega Farm Pond (DE) - 2/20, 2/21, hundreds at Cheese Factory Pond (CN,WN,JM). Eurasian Wigeon 2/22, Bodega Farm Pond (DE) - 2/24, 4 at Doran Pond (DH). Black Scoter 1/23, McKerricher SP (DT) - 2/15, 15 at Fish Docks (BDP). Barrow's Goldeneye 2/6, 13 at Mare Island (DA). Hooded Merganser 2/24, Doran Pond (DH). Tufted Duck 2/11, Mare Island (DA). Lesser Golden Plover 2/15, Spaletta Plateau (BDP) - 2/17, (RR) - 2/21, (JM). Parasitic Jaeger 2/22, Bodega Head (DE). Glaucous Gull 2/2, Stafford Lake (DA).

Raptors

Black-shouldered Kite 2/7, Willow Creek (JM). Bald Eagle 2/24, ad. at Marshall (DA). Red-tailed Hawk 2/7, many at Willow Creek (JM). Ferruginous Hawk 1/23, Manchester SP (DT) - 2/7, Bridgehaven (JM) - 2/22, attacked by Red-shouldered Hawk, Petaluma (DN). Rough-legged Hawk 2/7, Bridgehaven (JM). Golden Eagle 2/2, courting pair, Stafford Lake (DA) - 2/7, 3 at Bridgehaven (JM) - 2/16, Mt. St. Helena (BDP) - 2/21, 2 ad. Pt Reyes (JM) - 2/22, ad. Watson School DE) - 2/22, 2 ad., Shiloh Park (B&BR). Merlin 2/2, Stafford Lake (DA) - 2/22, Point Reyes (JM) - 2/24, entrance Doran (DH). Peregrine Falcon 2/21, Point Reyes (JM) - 2/24, Doran (DA).

Other Non-Passerines

White-throated Swift 2/16, 3 on Mt St Helena (BDP). Rufous Hummingbird 2/7, Oakmont (BM). Allen's Hummingbird 1/25, Oakmont (BM) - February, numerous locations (mob). Yellow-shafted Flicker 2/16, overlook, Bolinas (DH).

Passerines

Cliff Swallow 2/16, 150 in Colusa (DA). Yellow-billed Magpie 2/11, Mark West Station Rd. (MEK,DN). Canyon Wren 2/16, Mt. St. Helena (BDP). Summer Tanager 2/16, overlook, Bolinas (DH). California Towhee, part albino Feb., feeder, Kenwood (RR). Lincoln's Sparrow regular at feeder (C&WN,RR). Slate-colored Junco 2/3, Little River (DT). Purple Finch, albino Feb., feeder, Kenwood (RR). Red-crossbill 1/21, Fort Bragg (DT).

Mammals

Elephant Seal 2/17, 50 at Point Reyes (RR).

Observers:

Dick Ashford, David Hofmann, John McDonagh, Doug Ellis, Mary Ellen King, John McDonagh, Barbara Murray, Clyde & Wini Nelson, Dan Nelson, Bob and Bertha Rains, Ruth Rudesill, Dorothy Tobkin, many other birders.

TELEPHONE WHEEL

Apparently a few reports of rare birds were not received by all those listed on the Telephone Wheel. Reminder: Be sure to continue phoning all those names below yours until you get a live answer.

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 - Benjamin Parmeter, 2500 Emerson St. Napa 94558.....255-6757
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CHAIRMEN

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 Ruth Rudesill, P. O. Box 371, Kenwood 95452.....833-6026
Observations - Bob Rains, 450-A Las Casitas, Santa Rosa 95403.....528-6785
Social - Betty Burrige, 1653 Arroyo Sierra, Santa Rosa 95404.....527-0225
Christmas Count - Doug Ellis, PO Box 155, Eldridge 95431.....539-3443
 Ruth Rudesill, P. O. Box 371, Kenwood 95452.....833-6026
Kite Tales - Bertha Rains, 450-A Las Casitas, Santa Rosa 95403.....528-6785

MEMBERSHIP DUES RROS dues are \$10 for Family, \$7.50 for Individual, \$3 for Student. Memberships cover the period from July 1990 to June 1991 and include a subscription to Kite Tales. Checks should be made out to RROS and sent to Clarence Wolcott, Treasurer, at 4455 Dry Creek Rd., Healdsburg 95448.

Bertha L. Rains
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