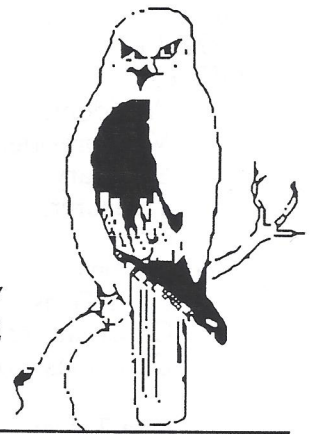


Kite Tales

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Volume 26, No. 8

April 1992



COMING ATTRACTIONS

General Meeting: Thurs, April 9, 1992

Place: Darwin Hall, Sonoma State University

Time: 7:30 PM

Program: Dr. David DeSante of The Institute for Bird Populations will present the program entitled "A Census of Burrowing Owls in California". He will also ask us, collectively and individually, to participate in a second year of censusing of the Burrowing Owl. For those who wish to contribute but will not be present at the program, you may write the institute at P.O. Box 1346, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956-1346. (See page 2 for additional information)

Field Trip: April 4, 1992, to Bodega Bay and vicinity. Meet at the Rail Ponds at the north end of Bodega Lagoon at 8:00 AM. Mike Parmeter will lead. Bring a bag lunch.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Field trip of **March 7 & 8** to the Susanville area, including Janesville and Honey Lake. At 4:00 AM on Saturday, March 7, eight (of ten trip members) left Susanville in search of Sage Grouse. At 5:00 AM these hardy souls were at the lek site and standing under softly falling snow, and were being serenaded by several howling coyotes. Silhouettes of Sage Grouse were soon visible and were followed by great views of at least 17 male and 3 female Sage Grouse, with the males performing their mating rituals. Several other notable sightings included: Red Crossbills building a nest, Evening Grosbeaks, Bald and Golden Eagles, several hundred Sandhill Cranes, Mountain Chickadees, Great Horned Owl in a nest, and

Townsend's Solitaire. Joel Hornstein and Deyea Harper led the trip that included: Avis Anderson, Betty Groce, Barbara Gumtow, Linda Hornstein, Adeen Nelligan, John and Virginia McDonagh, and our field-trips chairperson Cindy Young. A total of 70 species were recorded:

Eared Grebe, Tundra Swan, Greater White-fronted Goose, Canada Goose, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, Northern Shoveler, American Wigeon, Canvasback, Redhead, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Golden Eagle, American Kestrel, Prairie Falcon, Ring-necked Pheasant, Sage Grouse, California Quail, Sandhill Crane, Killdeer, Common Snipe, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, Great Horned Owl, Acorn Woodpecker, White-headed Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Steller's Jay, Scrub Jay, Black-billed Magpie, American Crow, Common Raven, Mountain Chickadee, Bushtit, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Pygmy Nuthatch, Western Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, Tricolored Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, Purple Finch, Cassin's Finch, House Finch, Red Crossbill, Lesser Goldfinch, American Goldfinch, Evening Grosbeak, House Sparrow.

Field trip of March 28 to Clear Lake: To be included in the May Kite Tales.

Nominating Committee Report

Nominees for officers and chairpersons for the 1992-1993 (July 1-June30) are as follows:

Officers:

President:	David Hofmann
Vice-president:	Jon Winter
Secretary:	Oliver Corey
Treasurer:	Jean Smith

Chairpersons:

Field Trips:	Cindy Young
Observations:	Avis Anderson
Christmas Count:	Doug Ellis Ruth Rudesill
Kite Tales:	Wayne Tillay
Social:	Betty Burridge

Submitted by: Avis Anderson, John Arnold, Bob Rains.

Members are urged to attend the April 9 meeting where this slate will be voted upon. The floor will be open for additional nominees.

A Census of Burrowing Owls in California

Dr. Dave DeSante is presently seeking funds to implement the 1992 phase of this census begun in 1991. This will nearly triple the area covered in 1991 at a cost of almost \$31,000, about twice the cost of the 1991 census. Partial funding is being sought from several corporations and foundations, and Dr. DeSante is hoping to obtain the rest from local chapters of the Audubon Society and independent groups such as RROS.

Dr. DeSante also wishes that members of the RROS will cooperate in conducting the actual census which will take place between May 15 and July 15, 1992. A census involves a 5 kilometer square block located primarily in Sonoma County. Mike Parmeter has indicated that he could assume the role of census coordinator and distribute the blocks for censusing to appropriate persons.

Miscellaneous Items

We received a letter from Dr. Joe H. Brumbaugh, Chair of the Department of Biology, Sonoma State University, in which he thanks RROS for the gift of the book "Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the World" by Charles G. Sibley and Burt L. Monroe. The book will be cataloged and be available for check-out for use by classes at the Ruben Salazar Library on campus.

Miscellaneous Items, continued

The American Birding Association, Inc., has sent us their wholesale catalog for use in fundraising activities. Included in this are many birdfinding guides, checklists, the NGS Field Guide to Birds, etc. These will be available to our membership if a mechanism can be worked out for their sale. If there is sufficient interest in this item it will be sent to a budget committee appointed by the president at the last meeting. The committee is composed of Bertha Rains, Jean Smith and treasurer Clarence Wolcott.

Editorial comments regarding observations found on page 3.

A Violet-crowned Hummingbird, discovered in a yard in Kenwood on March 28, will be of great interest to Sonoma County (and Northern California) birders. The location of this bird can be obtained only by word of mouth since the owner of the property does not want a horde of people trampling the location. Not only is this a Sonoma County record, but may be only the third record for the state and first for Northern California.

Of further interest is a note from Dorothy Tobkin, a member from Fort Bragg and our most faithful reporter of observations. She saw a Clay-colored sparrow in September, 1991, at the north end of MacKerricher SP within yards of the ocean. Another has been hanging around a feeder in the town of Mendocino for months. These and that she reported this month are the first three records for Mendocino County. All have been seen during the past six months.

Please note that the editor has departed from his general practice of only reporting birds from nearby locations. He tries to fill up a page with observations, and when members fail to come forth with enough local observations, he must resort to observations furnished by those who have the wandering habit (generally called chasing). While on the subject, the editor wonders why so few early spring birds were reported this month. Those of you who do not attend the regular meetings miss reports that are not given to Avis for inclusion in Kite Tales.

Note that birds considered to be of particular interest because of their rarity are listed in bold type.

OBSERVATIONS: 2/24 TO 3/28

SPECIES NAME	DATE	LOCATION, COUNTY	DETAILS	OBSERVERS
Red-necked Grebe	2/24	MacKerricher SP, Mendocino	1 bird; 3 on 3/9	DT
Whooper Swan	2/29	White Lake, L. Klamath NWR	Present since Nov.	JM,VM,JG,BG
Snow Goose	2/24	MacKerricher SP, Mendocino	Present all period	DT
✓ Steller's Eider	3/19	Bodega Bay, Sonoma	Still there	BGu, AA
Harlequin Duck	3/15	Chimney Rock, Pt. Reyes, Marin	1 male, 2 females	LP, CY
Hooded Merganser	3/01	Little Lake V., Willets, Mendo.	6 birds; 8 on 3/15	DT
	✓3/10	L. Suttonfield, Glen Ellen, Son.	25 birds	JG & BG
Golden Eagle	3/15	Little Lake V., Mendocino	Single bird	DT
Merlin	3/24	Skagg's Is., Sonoma	Single bird	DA
Peregrine Falcon	2/26	Manchester area, Mendocino	Single bird	DT
	3/01	Little Lake V., Mendocino	Single bird	DT
Wild Turkey	3/15	Little Lake V., Mendocino	At least 10 birds	DT
Lesser Golden-Plover	3/15	Spaletta Plateau, Marin	6 birds	LP, CY
	3/01	MacKerricher SP, Mendocino	Also 3/22	DT
Glaucous Gull	2/19	Clearlake Landfill, Lake	1 imm., 1st county record	JW
Black Skimmer	3/17	Upper Newport Bay, Orange	Three birds	WT
Marbled Murrelet	3/14	MacKerricher SP, Mendocino	Single (unusual) bird	DT
Northern Pygmy-Owl	3/03	Angwin, Napa	Yard bird	WT
Burrowing Owl	3/02	MacKerricher SP, Mendocino	Single bird	DT
Short-eared Owl	2/29	Tule Lake NWR, Siskeyou	Single bird	JM,VM,JG,BG
Violet-cr. Hummingbird	3/28	Kenwood, Sonoma	1st No. Cal. record?	MOB
Yellow-bel. Sapsucker	3/01	GG Park, San Francisco	Single bird	LP, AA
White-headed Woodpecker	2/29	Grass Lake, Siskeyou	Single bird	JM,VM,JG,BG
Vermilion Flycatcher	2/29	Gray Lodge WMA, Butte	Single bird	DH, WT
Townsend's Solitaire	2/29	Lava Beds NM, Siskeyou	Many birds	JM,VM,JG,BG
Wilson's Warbler	2/17	Russian River area, Sonoma	Two birds	BoR & BeR
	2/20	Annadel SP, Sonoma	3 birds	AA
Clay-colored Sparrow	2/29	Ukiah Sewage Ponds, Mendo.	Single bird, 3rd Co. record	DT
White-throated Sparrow	2/27	Angwin, Napa	Feeder bird to 3/7	WT
Dark-eyed Junco	3/01	Little Lake V., Mendocino	Slate colored race	DT
	3/07	Angwin, Napa	Slate colored, feeder	WT
Yellow-headed Blackbird	2/29	Colusa NWR, Colusa	Female	DH,WT

Observers: Avis Anderson, Dick Ashford, Jack & Betty Groce, Barbara Gumtow, David Hofmann, John and Virginia McDonagh, Linda Petruvias, Bob and Bertha Rains, Wayne Tillay, Dorothy Tobkin, Jerry White, Cindy Young

REDWOOD REGIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY was organized in 1962 "to encourage the study and conservation of birds, other wildlife, and their natural habitat." Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, September through May. Regular general meetings are held at 7:30PM in Room 221 Darwin Hall, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, California.

1991-92 Officers

President: Wayne Tillay, 160 Cold Springs Rd., Angwin, CA 94508 965-2978
Vice-president: David Hofmann, 2021 Pioneer Way #47, Santa Rosa CA 95403 . 546-0325
Secretary: Jean Smith, 519 Sunnyvale, Healdsburg CA 95448 433-2542
Treasurer: Clarence Wolcott, 4455 Dry Creek Rd., Healdsburg, CA 95448 433-1351

1991-92 Chairpersons

Field Trips: Cynthia Young, 7 Conifer Square, Rohnert Park, CA 94928. 585-8826
Observations: Avis Anderson, 116 Oak Island Place, Santa Rosa, CA 95405 539-0470
Social: Betty Burrige, 1653 Arroyo Sierra, Santa Rosa, CA 95404 527-0225
Christmas Count: Doug Ellis, PO Box 155, Kenwood, CA 95452 539-3443
Kite Tales: Wayne Tillay, 160 Cold Springs Rd., Angwin, CA 94508 965-2978

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