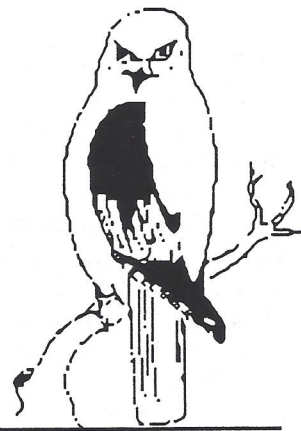


Kite Tales

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Volume 27, No. 7

March 1993



COMING ATTRACTIONS

General Meeting: Thurs. March 11, 1992.
Place: Darwin Hall, Sonoma State University
Time: 7:30 PM. Jon Winter, club Vice President, will give an illustrated program featuring the birds Antarctica, the Falkland Islands, and Tierra del Fuego. If this appears to be the same program scheduled for the February meeting, well it is. Jon was unable to make the last meeting, and David Hofmann ably filled in with his excellent slides of Kenyan birds and wildlife, plus a look at some of the birds the President's Day birders could possibly see near Klamath Falls.

Field Trip: Sunday, March 14, to Bodega Bay. Meet at the Rail Ponds at 8:00 AM to look for early migrants (and late winter residents). Be sure to bring a lunch and wear warm clothing. Ruth Rudesill will lead.

Field Trip: An overnigher is planned for March 20-21 to the Maricopa, Kern county, area, to look for LeConte's Thrasher and other goodies. The plan calls for leaving Saturday morning at 7:30 AM from the Safeway store in Sonoma. The group will stop at the Kern NWR (Twisselman Rd exit off I-5), and then continue to Maricopa (best reached via SR 119, the Taft Highway). The Best Western Motel in Maricopa (805 769-8291) will give a discount rate to participants and is where the group will meet for the Sunday birding. Call Ruth Rudesill for further information (833-6026).

FIELD TRIP REPORT

Field Trip of Feb 12-15, 1993 to the Klamath Falls area. The group, ably lead by Ruth Rudesill and assisted by premier Oregon birder Dave Hofmann, birded the Lower Klamath NWR, Tulelake area, Lava Beds NM, Lower

Klamath Lake and Link River, and the Fort Klamath area. Good weather was enjoyed by all en route, but a deep and frigid layer of Tule fog formed Friday night, engulfing the Lower Klamath and Tulelake refuges in fog and ice crystals. After wandering about fruitlessly in the fog, the group regrouped after lunch and headed for higher ground and sunshine in the Lava Beds National Monument. The best of the scarce birds there were Townsend's Solitaire and Mountain Bluebird, and we enjoyed a Yellow-bellied Marmot near the Petroglyph Rock. Sunday AM was just as cold (15° F) and it was still foggy. After a futile look for Northern Shrike at the Lava Beds, the group visited the Headquarter of Lower Klamath NWR where a porcupine seemed to be the main attraction. The afternoon was spent at the Fort Klamath dump and cemetery, looking for the Great Gray Owl. After 3.5 hrs of standing in or near 3 feet of snow, the bird finally came out just before dark. The view was not really that great, but everyone was satisfied with a scoped view for about 15 minutes. Monday AM brought a small front that cleared out the fog, but it felt colder than ever as the group birded the Lower Klamath Lake, Moore Park and Link River. Gulls, waterfowl and some land birds were enjoyed by all, especially several male (and female) Hooded Mergansers. All but six hardy birders had departed by late morning, but those left were rewarded with great looks at the birds in the Lower Klamath refuge. There were 17 Bald Eagles in one tree. Also, were thousands of waterfowl were in a large field--ducks, geese, swans with about thirty Bald Eagles sitting among them. Participants making the trip included Avis Anderson, Dick Ashford, Richard and Linda Bertoli, Jack and Betty Groce, David Hofmann, John and Virginia McDonagh, John O'Connell, Linda Petruvias, Ruth Rudesill, David and Linda Stout, Cindy Young and Wayne Tillay. (Continued)

FIELD TRIP REPORT (continued)

Bird List for Klamath field trip:

Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, Tundra Swan, Greater White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, American Kestrel, Prairie Falcon, Ring-necked Pheasant, California Quail, American Coot, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, Herring Gull, Caspian Tern, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Great Gray Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Northern Flicker, Horned Lark, Steller's Jay, Scrub Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Black-billed Magpie, Common Raven, Mountain Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Pygmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Mountain Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, European Starling, Rufous-sided Towhee, California Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Red Crossbill, Pine Siskin, Evening Grosbeak, House Sparrow. Total 78 species.

BURROWING OWL CENSUS

The Institute for Bird Populations, in conjunction with 34 local Bird Clubs and Audubon Society chapters, invites you to participate in the 1993 Burrowing Owl Census. The dates for this year's census are May 15 to July 15, 1993.

The reason for this census is that Burrowing Owls are experiencing severe population declines in California owing primarily to increased residential and industrial development in their nesting habitat. They are currently classified as "species of special concern" by the California Dept. of Fish and Game. The census will encompass all counties in California where Burrowing Owl breeding habitat occurs, exclusive of the Great Basin and southern deserts.

Contact Dr. B. D. (Mike) Parmeter at (707) 255-6757 if you would like to cover one or more 5-km (3.1 mi per side) blocks near your home (or further afield, if you wish).

NATURAL HISTORY CLASS

Sonoma State University is offering an upper division class in Contemporary Issues in Biology, with 3 semester units credit, entitled "Natural History of the Hawaiian Islands". The class will be taught by Professor Matthew James who lived on Oahu for 20 years. He has a Ph.D. in Paleontology at UC Berkeley, and since 1985 has been on the faculty in the Department of Geology at Sonoma State U. The class has a prerequisite and will satisfy GE credit in the Natural Sciences. Contact the Geology Department at SSU for details.

ADDITIONAL NEWS AND TRIVIA

The April issue of Kite Tales may reach you too late to reveal that the April meeting (April 8) will be held at the usual place and time (Darwin Hall, Sonoma State University, 2nd floor). However, the planned feature will be given by our 'old' standbys, Bob and Bertha Rains. They birded Trinidad and Tobago during the Christmas season and will show us slides and tell of their adventures. The editor will be away from March 25 to April 1 and cannot possibly (although he will try) get a Kite Tales in everyone's hands before the April meeting. News of the April field trip will, however, reach you in time to make plans for it.

It may be of interest to know that on our Klamath field trip RROS president David Hofmann was determined to see the Great Gray Owl in Oregon (he and others had seen it last year at Yosemite). It was a state bird for him, and his Oregon state list is impressive since he formerly lived there. Several people, especially the editor, were very skeptical after standing or walking on snow for hours. However, Dave and Ruth were insistent that we remain until dark, and it proved to be a very wise decision.

On Saturday, March 6, the Mt. Diablo AS has scheduled a field trip to Bodega Bay. They will meet at the Tides at 9:00 AM. They also have a field trip scheduled for Tomales Bay on March 20, meeting at Tomales SP at 8:30 AM.

OBSERVATIONS, JANUARY 23 TO FEBRUARY 27

SPECIES NAME	DATE	LOCATION, COUNTY	DETAILS	OBSERVERS
Red-necked Grebe	02/27	Bodega Harbor, Sonoma Co	Single bird	David Hofmann
American Bittern	02/01	Grizzley Is. Rd, Solano Co	2 birds	Wayne Tillay
Blue-winged Teal	02/27	Hill Slough, Solano Co	Single male to 3/1	Ralph Sherman
King Eider	02/01	Eureka, Humbolt Co	Single female	B Groce, C Young, MOB
Harlequin Duck	02/20	Humbolt Bay, Humbolt Co	Single female	R Rudesill, A Wight
Oldsquaw	02/20	Humbolt Bay, Humbolt Co	Single Bird	R Rudesill, A Wight
Barrow's Goldeneye	02/04	L Mendocino, Mendocino Co	Single male	Wayne Tillay
Hooded Merganser	01/23	Las Galinas Ponds, Marin Co	2 female, 1 male	C Young, L Petrulias
Ferruginous Hawk	02/10	Guerneville Rd, S R, Sonoma Co	Single bird	J & V McDonagh
Golden Eagle	02/10	L Hennessey, Napa Co	Pair of birds	Wayne Tillay
Merlin	02/10	L Hennessey, Napa Co	Single bird	Wayne Tillay
Wild Turkey	02/27	Hwy 1 near Bodega Town, Son.	6 birds	David Hofmann
Rock Sandpiper	02/20	N. Jetty, Eureka, Humbolt Co	Single bird	R Rudesill, A Wight
Laughing Gull	01/23	L Mendocino, Mendocino Co	Immature, 1st Co. Record	Jerry White, MOB
Black-legged Kittiwake	02/21	Duncan's Landing, Sonoma Co	Single bird	AW, BB, CW, et al
Northern Pygmy-Owl	02/16	Angwin, Napa Co	Single yard bird, to 2/26	Wayne Tillay
Burrowing Owl	01/28	Stage Gulch Rd, Sonoma Co	Single bird	Ruth Rudesill
Northern Saw-whet Owl	02/11	Pt Reyes Lighthouse, Marin Co	Single immature	John McDonagh, MOB
Allen's Hummingbird	01/17	Santa Rosa, Sonoma Co	Single bird in yard	Bob & Bertha Rains
	02/17	Santa Rosa, Sonoma Co	Single male in yard	Betty Groce
Violet-green Swallow	02/20	Occidental Rd/Laguna, Sonoma	5 + 50 Tree Swallows	David Hofmann
House Wren	02/21	Santa Rosa, Sonoma Co	Single yard bird	Bob & Bertha Rains
Cedar Waxwing	02/21	Santa Rosa, Sonoma Co	40+ birds in yard	John McDonagh
Blue-winged Warbler	02/07	Ferndale, Humbolt Co	Single bird	C Young, L Petrulias, MOB

OBSERVERS: Betty Burrige, Betty Groce, David Hofmann, John & Virginia McDonagh, Linda Petrulias, Bob and Bertha Rains, Ruth Rudesill, Ralph Sherman, Wayne Tillay, Jerry White, Alan Wight, Chris Wood, and Cynthia 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.

1992-93 Officers

President: David Hofmann, 2021 Pioneer Way #47, Santa Rosa CA 95403 546-0325
Vice-president: Jon Winter, 5331 El Mercado, Santa Rosa CA 95403 528-7488
Secretary: Olive Corey, 422 Ridgeway, Santa Rosa CA 95401 542-8429
Treasurer: Jean Smith, 519 Sunnyvale, Healdsburg CA 95448 433-2542

1992-93 Chairpersons

Field Trips: Cynthia Young, 7 Conifer Square, Rohnert Park, CA 94928 585-8826
 Ruth Rudesill, PO Box 371, Kenwood CA 95452 833-6026
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, Eldridge, CA 95452 539-3443
 Ruth Rudesill, PO Box 371, Kenwood CA 95452 833-6026
Kite Tales: Wayne Tillay, 160 Cold Springs Rd., Angwin, CA 94508 965-2978

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