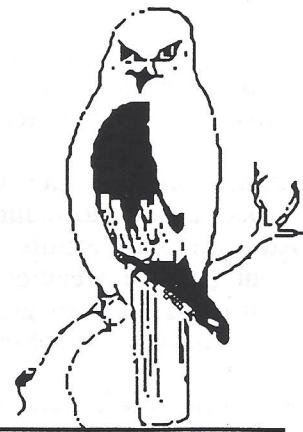


Kite Tales

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Volume 27, No. 8

April 1993



COMING ATTRACTIONS

General Meeting: Thursday April 8, 1993.
Place: Darwin Hall, Sonoma State University
Time: 7:30 PM. The featured speakers will be Bob and Bertha Rains who birded Trinidad and Tobago during this past Christmas season and will show us slides and tell of their adventures.

Field Trip: Saturday, April 24, 1993 to Ida Clayton Road. Meet at the intersection of Ida Clayton Rd and State Hwy 128 at 8:00 AM. Bring a lunch, and we will look for Spring birds and flowers. Ruth Rudesill will lead.

Field Trip: Saturday, May 15, 1993 to Pine Flat Rd. Meet at the turnout about 1/4 mile up Pine Flat Rd (same as last year). Take Alexander Rd from US 101 at Healdsburg, then SR 128 to Pine Flat Rd. We will look again for Black-chinned Sparrow, found last year, and other chaparral species. Leader will be Dan Nelson.

Field Trips: A Memorial Day weekend, May 28 to May 31, overnight trip is planned to Arcata and Humboldt Co. Some will be leaving Friday afternoon and returning Monday, but others may join on Saturday or Sunday. The plan is to camp at Patrick's Pt. State Park. More details will be printed in the May Kite Tales. Also planned is a June trip to the Central Valley, and a July 4th weekend trip to the Tulelake/Lava Beds area.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

The field trip of Sunday, March 14, to Bodega Bay produced 89 species. 15 participants turned out on an overcast day with periods of light drizzle, but a warm and calm sea with a minus tide. Highlights of the day were a

breeding plumaged Red-necked Grebe, three calling **Black Rails** at Doran Park, several breeding plumaged Common Loons, and about 400(+) Brant.

Participants: Jack Arnold, Nancy Conzett, Doug Ellis, David Hofmann, John McDonagh, Wini Nelson, Mike Parmeter, Bob, Bertha and Miles Rains, Ruth Rudesill, Jean Smith, Jim and Jean Tonascia, and Alan Wight. The trip list follows:

Red-throated Loon, Pacific Loon, Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Clark's Grebe, Brown Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Brandt's Cormorant, Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, Brant, Mallard, Cinnamon Teal, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Greater Scaup, Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, California Quail, Virginia Rail, Sora, Black Rail, American Coot, Black-bellied Plover, Snowy Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Black Oystercatcher, Willet, Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Black Turnstone, Surf-bird, Sanderling, Western Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Red Phalarope, Heermann's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, Western Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Common Murre, Band-tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Allen's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Northern Flicker, Black Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Scrub Jay, Common Raven, Bushtit, Bewick's Wren, Winter Wren, Marsh Wren, European Starling, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, California Towhee, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Purple Finch, House Finch, House Sparrow.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS, continued

The field trip to **Maricopa, Kern County area** on March 20-21 produced outstanding birds as reported by Ruth Rudesill.

Participants on the count included: Betty Groce, David Hofmann, Linda Petrulias, Ruth Rudesill, Jean Smith, Alan Wight and Cindy Young. The weather was sunny and warm with large fields of green grass and wildflowers to make the drive down I-5 enjoyable.

At Kern NWR hundreds of duck and thousands of sandpipers were seen, and everyone was thrilled by several Greater Roadrunners. In the evening Lesser Nighthawks were noted, along with a hovering Burrowing Owl and a Short-eared Owl (rare for the area). Early spring migrants were also noted at Kern including Western Kingbird, Northern Oriole and Lesser Yellowlegs.

Sunday, March 21, began with overcast skies and anxious birders at an oilfield outside the town of Maricopa. As they exited their cars, the target bird called. A tape was played and birders were rewarded with an extended close view of the **LeConte's Thrasher** (lifer for five of the seven participants). Later on as the birders entered the Tehachapi Mountains toward Mt. Pinos, they stopped at a field of flowers that were frequented by a large flock of finches. Another target species was found, **Lawrence's Goldfinch**.

David Hofmann celebrated lifers #597 and #598 with a banana split for lunch and Denny's "Chocolante Challenge" for dinner. Question: When will Betty Groce celebrate with her next lifer, #600? It had better be a very good bird, Betty!

Space and time (the editor was away until April 1; hence the late Kite Tales) will not permit a complete listing of all of the birds noted (115 species according to Ruth). However, the following should be of interest to those who did not go. Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Chukar (heard), Mt. Quail (heard), Lesser Yellowlegs, Greater Roadrunner, Barn Owl, Short-eared Owl, Burrowing Owl, Lesser Nighthawk, Costa's Hummingbird, White-headed Woodpecker, 5 species of swallows, Clark's Nutcracker (and 5 additional corvids), Mt. Chickadee, all three nuthatches, Rock Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, California and LeConte's Thrashers, six species of sparrows

including Sage and Lincoln, six icterids including Yellow-headed Blackbird and Northern Oriole, and four finches including Lawrence's Goldfinch and Purple finch.

ADDITIONAL NEWS AND TRIVIA

The nominating committee composed of three very capable and loyal attendees, Barbara Gumtow, Winnie Nelson and Bertha Rains, presented their report at the March meeting. Election of officers for the 1993-94 year will be held at the April meeting. Nominations from the floor may be made at that time.

President:	Jon Winter
Vice-president:	Richard Merriss
Secretary:	Olive Corey
Treasurer:	Jean Smith
Field Trips:	Cynthia Young
Observations:	Ruth Rudesill
Social:	Barbara Gumtow
Kite Tales:	Alan Wight
Christmas Count:	Douglas Ellis

OBSERVATIONS, FEB 25 TO APR 1

SPECIES NAME	DATE	LOCATION, COUNTY	DETAILS	OBSERVERS
Red-necked Grebe	2/27	No. of Westport, Mendocino Co	6 birds	Dorothy Tobkin
	3/12	MacKerricher SP, Mendocino Co	4 birds	Dorothy Tobkin
	3/28	Limantour area, Marin	2 birds	David Hofmann
American Bittern	2/25	Grizzley Is., Solano Co	4 birds	John McDonagh, et al
Wood Duck	3/19	Lucchesi Pk., Petaluma, Sonoma	Single bird	Sue Proeber
Blue-winged Teal	2/25	Grizzley Is., Solano Co	Single bird	Russ Agnere, et al
Eurasian Widgeon	2/25	Grizzley Is., Solano Co	Single bird	Jim Clegg, et al
Harlequin Duck	3/17	Chimney Rock, Pt Reyes, Marin	Pair of birds, to 3/28	J McDonagh; D Hofmann
Black Scoter	3/28	Fish Docks, Pt Reyes, Marin	Many birds	Dave Hofmann
Hooded Merganser	3/01	Rohnert Pk., Sonoma Co	Pair of birds	Cindy Young
	3/01	Caspar Pond, Mendocino Co	2 females all period	Dorothy Tobkin
Ferruginous Hawk	2/27	No. of Ft. Bragg, Mendocino Co	Single bird	Dorothy Tobkin
Rough-legged Hawk	2/25	Grizzley Is., Solano Co.	Single bird	John McDonagh, et al
Peregrine Falcon	3/20	Mendocino (town), Mendocino Co	Single bird	Dorothy Tobkin
Lesser Golden-Plover	3/17	Spaletta Plateau, Pt Reyes, Marin	14 birds; present 3/28	J McDonagh; D Hofmann
Marbled Murrelet	2/27	No. of Westport, Mendocino Co	4 birds	Dorothy Tobkin
Barred Owl	3/12	The Woodlands, Mendocino Co	Breeding pair seen & heard	Dorothy Tobkin
Northern Saw-whet Owl	3/17	Lighthouse Trees, Marin Co	Immature still there 3/28	J McDonagh; D Hofmann
Eastern Phoebe	3/16	Turtle Rock area, Orange Co	Single bird	Wayne Tillay
Gray Jay	2/28	Big River, Mendocino Co	4 birds	Dorothy Tobkin
Orange-crowned Warbler	2/26	Crane Cyn Rd., Sonoma Co	Yard bird	Terry Babineaux
Wilson's Warbler	3/28	Whitehouse Pool, Marin	Early single bird	David Hofmann
White-throated Sparrow	3/04	Angwin, Napa Co	1 in mixed flock to 4/2	Wayne Tillay
Lapland Longspur	3/14	MacKerricher SP, Mendocino Co	Breeding plumaged female	Dorothy Tobkin
Northern Oriole	3/24	Santa Rosa, Sonoma Co	Yard bird (1st if year)	Ebba Hubbard
Rosy Finch	3/31	Georgetown, CO	100± at feeder (Gray Cr.)	Wayne Tillay
OBSERVERS: Russ Agnere, Terry Babineaux, Jim Clegg, Ebba Hilliard, David Hofmann, John McDonagh,				
Sue Proeber, Wayne Tillay, Dorothy Tobkin, 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.

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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