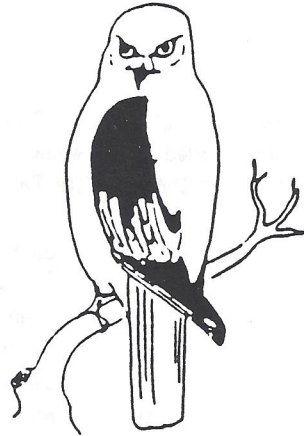


Kite Tales

Redwood Region Ornithological Society

Volume 28, Number 8

April 1994



Coming Attractions

General Meeting. April 14, 1994 - Thursday, 7:30 PM at Room 221, Darwin Hall, Sonoma State University. Jules Evens will present information on Clapper Rails based on research that he has done at the north end of San Francisco Bay with the organization Avocet International. Jules is a well known Marin County biologist and author of the book The Natural History of the Point Reyes Peninsula.

Field Trip to Mendocino County. Sunday, April 17. Meet at 8:30 AM at Pudding Creek just north of Fort Bragg. Take Highway 1 north through Fort Bragg and over the Pudding Creek bridge. Take the first left after the bridge (marked as coastal access). Turn left again into the large paved area. Bring a lunch. We will look for Gray Jays along with many other birds. Leader is Dorothy Tobkin ((707) 964-6216).

Dorothy Tobkin has helped organize a pelagic trip out of Fort Bragg on May 15. There are still spaces left. The cost will be \$55 for an all day trip. This trip is going out 30 miles to an underwater seamount never birded before. The leader is Stan Harris from Humboldt County. (Stan was Ruth Rudesill's ornithology professor at Humboldt State University.) This should be a very exciting trip as new birds seem to show up in the spring. There is a chance of seeing Murphy's Petrel. Call Dorothy Tobkin at (707) 964-6216 to sign up.

Officer Nominations

At the March meeting, the nominating committee composed of Jack Arnold, Betty Burrige, and Mike Parmeter made their nominations. The election of officers for the 1994-1995 year will be made at the April meeting. Nominations from the floor may be made at that time. The nominated officers are as follows:

President	Richard Merriss
Vice President	Bob Rains
Secretary	Winnie Nelson
Treasurer	Mike Nelligan

Phone Wheel

It appears that over two years have passed since the last time the RROS phone wheel was included in the Kite Tales. The editor feels that now is a good time to reprint it and allow for any changes that people want to make. For those who do not know, the phone wheel alerts the people on it to the presence of rare birds in the local area in a timely manner. When a rare bird shows up, one of the people on the phone wheel calls the next person on the wheel and passes the news along. The second person calls the third person, and so on. In this way, the information is passed to all of the people on the phone wheel. Please

call Alan Wight at 763-8573 (evenings) or Ruth Rudesill at 833-6026 (evenings) if you would like to have your name added to or removed from the phone wheel. The revised phone wheel and the phone wheel rules will appear in the May Kite Tales. The current phone wheel is as follows:

1.	Jack Arnold	539-4544	
2.	Bob and Bertha Rains	528-6785	
3.	Jean Smith	433-2542	
4.	Devea Harper	542-1542	
5.	David Hofmann	546-0325	
6.	Ruth Rudesill	833-6026	
7.	Dick Ashford	996-7508	
8.	Betty Burrige	527-0225	
9.	Avis Anderson	539-0470	
10.	Betty Groce	539-8664	
11.	John McDonagh	527-9115	
12.	Cindy Young	585-8826	
13.	Linda Petrulias	632-5532 (home)	887-1501 (work)
14.	Carol Brant	823-2806	
15.	Alan Wight	763-8572	
16.	Winnie Nelson	762-6152	
17.	Dan Wilson	579-3949	

Spring Arrivals

The editor thought it would be interesting to see what the earliest arrival dates were this year for our returning spring birds. Please call Ruth Rudesill at 833-6026 to report your first encounters this spring with the birds from the following list. Please only report bird sightings that are within Sonoma County and that might be early arrival dates. Report species, number of individuals, date, location, and your name. The earliest record of each species will be printed in the May Kite Tales.

Common Poorwill	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Hermit Warbler
Vaux's Swift	Cliff Swallow	MacGillivray's Warbler
White-throated Swift	Barn Swallow	Wilson's Warbler
Allen's Hummingbird	House Wren	Yellow-breasted Chat
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Western Tanager
Western Wood-Pewee	Swainson's Thrush	Black-headed Grosbeak
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	Solitary Vireo	Lazuli Bunting
Ash-throated Flycatcher	Warbling Vireo	Chipping Sparrow
Western Kingbird	Orange-crowned Warbler	Grasshopper Sparrow
Purple Martin	Yellow Warbler	Hooded Oriole
Tree Swallow	Black-throated Gray Warbler	Northern Oriole
Violet-green Swallow		

Some of these species winter in the county in small numbers. Please try to discern between wintering birds and returning spring migrants (which may be impossible).

Field Trip Report

Lake Hennessey, Napa County, March 12, 1994.

Twenty-two birders enjoyed a nice spring day at Lake Hennessey and Bothe State Park in Napa County. Highlights at Lake Hennessey included two adult Bald Eagles, a Common Loon, Greater and Lesser Scaup, and Tree, Violet-green, and Northern Rough-winged Swallows. Bothe State Park provided singing Orange-crowned Warblers, views of a calling Northern Pygmy-Owl, and Calypso Orchids. Participants were Ken Ackerman, Avis Anderson, Dick Ashford, Lee and Terry Babineaux, Beverly Burcek, Betty Groce, Barbara Gumtow, David Hofmann, Gloria Markowitz, John McDonagh, Winnie Nelson, Mike Parmeter, Bob and Bertha Rains, Ruth Rudesill, Jeremy Stephens, Jim and Jean Tonascia, Alan Wight, and Ned and Donna Wynn. The trip list follows:

Common Loon	California Gull	Marsh Wren
Pied-billed Grebe	Rock Dove	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Horned Grebe	Band-tailed Pigeon	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Eared Grebe	Mourning Dove	Western Bluebird
Western Grebe	Northern Pygmy-Owl	Hermit Thrush
Clark's Grebe	Anna's Hummingbird	American Robin
Double-crested Cormorant	Acorn Woodpecker	Wrentit
Great Blue Heron	Nuttall's Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Wood Duck	Downy Woodpecker	European Starling
Mallard	Northern Flicker	Hutton's Vireo
Greater Scaup	Pileated Woodpecker	Orange-crowned Warbler
Lesser Scaup	Tree Swallow	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Common Goldeneye	Violet-green Swallow	Rufous-sided Towhee
Bufflehead	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	California Towhee
Ruddy Duck	Steller's Jay	Lark Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Scrub Jay	Savannah Sparrow
Osprey	American Crow	Song Sparrow
White-tailed Kite	Common Raven	Lincoln's Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk	Plain Titmouse	White-crowned Sparrow
Red-shouldered Hawk	Bushtit	Dark-eyed Junco
Red-tailed Hawk	White-breasted Nuthatch	Red-winged Blackbird
American Kestrel	Brown Creeper	Western Meadowlark
California Quail	Rock Wren	Purple Finch
American Coot	Bewick's Wren	House Finch
Killdeer	Winter Wren	Lesser Goldfinch

RROS Observations, March 1994 (+)

Species	Number	Date	Location	County	Observers	Notes
Red-necked Grebe	1	3/13	Duncan's Landing	SON	DH, AW	
Canada Goose (Cackling)	1	March	Mackerricher SP	MEN	DT	
Canada Goose (Aleutian)	1	3/11	Mackerricher SP	MEN	DT	
Greater White-fronted Goose	1	March	Mackerricher SP	MEN	DT	
Eurasian Wigeon	1 male	3/6	Petaluma River	SON	BB	
Eurasian Wigeon	1 male	3/13	Willits area	MEN	DT	
Black Scoter	2-4	March	Mackerricher SP	MEN	DT	
Swainson's Hawk	1	2/21	Highway 37	SOL	RA, JM	
Swainson's Hawk	1	2/23	Highway 37	SOL	JW	
Merlin	1	2/27	Shell Beach	SON	LS	black form
Lesser yellowlegs	1	3/13	Carmody Road pond	SON	AW	
Parasitic Jaeger	1	3/20	Bodega Head	SON	DH, BDP	
Bonaparte's Gull	5	3/20	Bodega Head	SON	BDP, AW	
Glaucous Gull	1	3/20	Salmon Creek	SON	BDP, AW	
Black-legged Kittiwake	1	3/5	Bodega Head	SON	DH	
Caspian Tern	2	3/20	Bodega Harbor	SON	BDP, AW	
Caspian Tern	3	3/20	Russian River mouth	SON	BDP, AW	
Marbled Murrelet	3	3/9	Todd's Point, Fort Bragg	MEN	DT	
Marbled Murrelet	5 pairs	3/13	Bodega Head	SON	DH, AW	
Black Rail	1	3/2	Doran Park	SON	DH	
Black Rail	2	3/20	Doran Park	SON	BDP, AW	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	late February	near Guerneville	SON	NP	see Note 1
Wild Turkey	1	3/6	Cazadero	SON	DB	see Note 2
Rufous Hummingbird	1 male	3/20	Salmon Creek Road	SON	BDP, AW	
Vermilion Flycatcher	1 male	3/16	Drake's Beach	MRN	TL, BG, DH, many	
Swamp Sparrow	1	3/2	Ukiah Sewer Ponds	MEN	DT	
White-throated Sparrow	6	3/27	Kenwood	SON	RR	singing
Red Crossbill	10	2/27	Jackson State Forest	MEN	DT	
Red Crossbill	2	3/15	Mendocino/Albion	MEN	DT	
Red Crossbill	2-4	3/20	Jackson State Forest	MEN	DT	

Note 1. This sapsucker was found dead - we don't know if it is the same bird that has been in Monte Rio the last couple of years.

Note 2. The turkey landed on the top of a 120 foot Douglas-fir tree!

Observers: Russ Agnew, Dennis Beall, Betty Burrige, Betty Groce, David Hofmann, Terry Law, John McDonagh, Noni Palmer, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Ruth Rudesill, Lynn Stafford, Dorothy Tobkin, Alan Wight, Jon Winter.

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REDWOOD REGION 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 7:30 PM in Room 221 Darwin Hall, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, California.

1993-1994 Officers

President:	Jon Winter, 5331 El Mercado, Santa Rosa, CA 95403	528-7488
Vice-president:	Richard E. Merriss, 2046 Hearn Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95407	525-8629
Secretary:	Olive Corey, 422 Ridgeway, Santa Rosa, CA 95401	542-8429
Treasurer:	Jean Smith, 519 Sunnyvale, Healdsburg, CA 95448	433-2542

1993-1994 Chairpersons

Field Trips:	Cynthia Young, 7 Conifer Square, Rohnert Park, CA 94928	585-8826
Observations:	Ruth Rudesill, P.O. Box 371, Kenwood, CA 95452	833-6026
Social:	Barbara Gumtow, 7915 Bella Vista Dr., Sebastopol, CA 95472	823-7869
Christmas Count:	Doug Ellis, P.O. Box 155, Eldridge, CA 95431	539-3443
Kite Tales:	Alan Wight, 300 6th St. #2, Petaluma, CA 94952	763-8572

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