

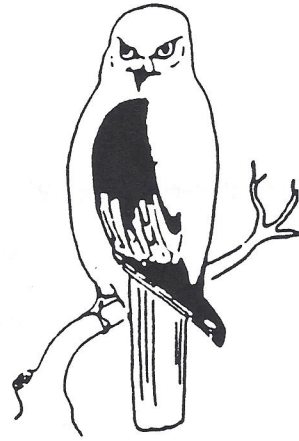
*Spring
arrival dates*

Kite Tales

Redwood Region Ornithological Society

Volume 28, Number 9

May 1994



Coming Attractions

Potluck Dinner and General Meeting. May 12, 1994 - Thursday, 6:00 PM at Spring Lake Park. Meet at the Lower Jackrabbit Picnic Area (use the Newanga Avenue entrance to the park). There will be a short business meeting after the potluck dinner. Bring your own service, drinks, and a main dish, salad, or dessert. Keep in mind that we will have to leave by sunset (approximately 8:00 PM).

Field Trip to Pine Flat Road. Saturday, May 14. Meet at 7:30 AM at the turnout approximately one quarter mile up Pine Flat Road. Take Alexander Valley Road from US 101 just north of Healdsburg to Highway 128. Go straight at Highway 128 to Pine Flat Road. We will look for a wide variety of woodland and chaparral species. Black-chinned Sparrow is a possibility. Leader is Dan Nelson (763-2754).

Field Trip to Yosemite. Friday, June 24 through Sunday, June 26. Jon Winter will be leading this trip to Yosemite National Park. This should be a very interesting trip due to Jon's extensive knowledge of the birds of the Yosemite area. Birds that will be looked for include Great Gray Owl, Williamson's Sapsucker, White-headed and Black-backed Woodpeckers, Hammond's and Dusky Flycatchers, and Pine and Evening Grosbeaks. We will bird near the Highway 120 entrance to the park and along Tioga Pass Road. A group camp for 30 people has been reserved at Moore Creek. Take Highway 120 toward Yosemite through Big Oak Flat and Groveland. Approximately 9 miles east of Groveland at Buck Meadows turn right onto Moore Creek Road. Drive south 1 to 2 miles to Moore Creek Group Site, where we will be camping on Friday, Saturday, and possibly Sunday nights. Lodging is available nearby at Evergreen Lodge near the park entrance ((209) 379-2606) or at Sugarpine Ranch Motel between Groveland and Buck Meadows ((209) 962-7823). Please contact Jon Winter at 528-7488 or Cindy Young at 585-8826 if you plan to go on this trip.

Field Trip to Lava Beds National Monument. Saturday, July 2 through Monday, July 4. We will be camping at the Lava Beds campground on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights. Among the many birds seen on past trips to Lava Beds are Prairie Falcon, Common Nighthawk, Purple Martin, Pinyon Jay, Canyon Wren, and Brewer's and Vesper Sparrows. Leader is Ruth Rudesill. Please contact Ruth at 833-6026 for further details.

Membership Dues

Membership dues are now being accepted for the 1994-95 year. Dues are \$15 per family or \$8 per individual per year. Student dues are \$3. Send your check to the RROS treasurer, Mike Nelligan, 124 Wikiup Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95403. Make checks payable to RROS.

Officer Elections

The following officers for the 1994-1995 year were elected at the April meeting:

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

Phone Wheel

The new phone wheel is printed below. Please follow the following rules when using the phone wheel.

- 1) When you receive word of a rare or unusual bird, call the person whose name follows your name on the list (the last person calls the first).
- 2) Report the following information:
 - a) Bird species (including age and sex information if relevant)
 - b) Location (including directions of how to get there if required)
 - c) When the bird was seen
 - d) Who found the bird
 - e) Who started the phone wheel
- 3) If you reach an answering machine, leave a short message so that the person can call back for details. Next call the following person on the list. Repeat until you reach a person who can pass on the information.
- 4) As a courtesy, try to phone the people you were unable to reach at a later time.

If you did not get on the list and would like to be alerted of rare birds, find someone on the wheel who would be willing to call you (in addition to the person on the phone wheel that they are responsible to call).

1.	Jack Arnold	539-4544	
2.	Bob and Bertha Rains	528-6785	
3.	Richard Merriss	525-8629 (home)	573-3933 (work)
4.	Deyea 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 Petruvias	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

1994

The 1994 spring early arrival dates for Sonoma County's returning birds are listed below. Thank you for reporting your sightings.

Common Poorwill	4/12	Sugarloaf Ridge State Park
Vaux's Swift	4/26	Spring Lake Park
White-throated Swift	No report	
Allen's Hummingbird	1/28	Wikiup
Olive-sided Flycatcher	No report	
Western Wood-Pewee	4/12	Sugarloaf Ridge State Park
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	3/5	Annadel State Park
Ash-throated Flycatcher	3/27	Sugarloaf Ridge State Park
Western Kingbird	4/9	Franz Valley Road
Purple Martin	4/17	Gualala River Bridge
Tree Swallow	1/27	Spring Lake Park
Violet-green Swallow	2/8	Spring Lake Park
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	3/4	Casini's Pond
Cliff Swallow	3/24	Duncans Mills
Barn Swallow	3/13	Bodega Head
House Wren	4/13	Annadel State Park
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	3/27	Sugarloaf Ridge State Park
Swainson's Thrush	4/24	Bodega Bay
Solitary Vireo	3/16	Annadel State Park
Warbling Vireo	3/16	Annadel State Park
Orange-crowned Warbler	late February	Crane Canyon
Yellow Warbler	4/14	Sonoma State University
Black-throated Gray Warbler	3/27	Sugarloaf Ridge State Park
Hermit Warbler	4/16	Ida Clayton Road
MacGillivray's Warbler	No report	
Wilson's Warbler	3/19	Annadel State Park
Yellow-breasted Chat	4/15	Willowside Road
Western Tanager	4/18	Sugarloaf Ridge State Park
Black-headed Grosbeak	4/9	King Ridge Road
Lazuli Bunting	4/19	Sugarloaf Ridge State Park
Chipping Sparrow	3/26	King Ridge Road
Grasshopper Sparrow	No report	
Hooded Oriole	No report	
Northern Oriole	3/27	Santa Rosa

Contributors: Dick Ashford, Terry Babineaux, Doug Ellis, Mary Finn, Betty Groce, David Hofmann, Peter Leveque, John McDonagh, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Linda Petrulias, Bob and Bertha Rains, Ruth Rudesill, Jim and Jean Tonascia, Alan Wight.

Field Trip Report

Fort Bragg Area, Mendocino County, April 17, 1994.

Fifteen birders enjoyed wonderful sunny weather and Dorothy Tobkin's able leadership. We birded along the train tracks at Pudding Creek, lunched at Mackerricher State Park, birded Mendocino Bay, hiked through Van Damme State Park, and ended the day on Cameron Road. A total of 95 bird species were encountered. Highlight species included Red-necked Grebe, Harlequin Duck, Wandering Tattler, Rhinoceros Auklet, and Gray Jay. Thank you Toby for a great day of birding. Participants were Avis Anderson, Betty Burrige, Doug Ellis, Betty Groce, David Hofmann, Sharon, Levy, John, and Virginia McDonagh, Mike Nelligan, Bob and Bertha Rains, Ruth Rudesill, Dorothy Tobkin, Jim and Jean Tonascia, and Cindy Young.

Mono Lake Breeding Bird Count

On Saturday, June 11, 1994, there will be a breeding bird count at Mono Lake. The survey uses the Christmas count circle which is centered on Lee Vining. This circle includes much of the western shore of Mono Lake, as well as parts of Lundy and Lee Vining Canyons. In mid-June, birds should be at the height of song and activity. Abundant species include Green-tailed Towhees, Sage Thrashers, House Wrens, Red-breasted Sapsuckers, and Brewer's Sparrows. Much still needs to be learned about the avifauna of this beautiful area. Your help is crucial! The count is followed by a potluck at 6:00 PM at the Mono Lake County Park which is located on Cemetery Road about 4 miles north of Lee Vining.

Plan on a half to full day of hiking. Conditions are usually cold and windy. Participants need to have a working knowledge of the common birds, and bring food, water, and a clipboard. A spotting scope and 4WD vehicles could be useful. Contact Emilie Strauss at (510) 525-5761 for more information.

RROS Observations, April 1994 (+)

Species	Number	Date	Location	County	Observers	Notes
Cattle Egret	3	4/24	High School Road	SON	DH	
✓ Tufted Duck	1 pair	4/10-18	Petaluma Sewer Ponds	SON	DN, many	3rd county record
Tufted Duck	1 male	4/5	Mare Island	SOL	DA	
✓ Common Moorhen	1	4/17	Hole-in-the-Head	SON	NC	
Pacific Golden-Plover	several	4/28	Spaletta Plateau	MRN	JM	
American Golden-Plover	1	4/28	Spaletta Plateau	MRN	JM	
Lesser Yellowlegs	1	4/28	Spaletta Slop Ponds	MRN	many	
✓ Rufous Hummingbird	1-2	3/21-4/14	Oakmont	SON	BG	
Costa's Hummingbird	1 male	5/1	Del Puerto Canyon Road	STN	DE, DH, LP, RR, AW, NW	
Calliope Hummingbird	1 male	4/30	White Canyon	CCO	RR, AW	
✓ Lewis' Woodpecker	1	3/28	Stage Gulch Road	SON	RR	
Hammond's Flycatcher	2	4/30	Mitchell Canyon	CCO	RR, AW	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	24+	4/23	near Mobile, Alabama		DA	
Townsend's Solitaire	1	4/28	Fish Docks	MRN	many	
Palm Warbler	2	4/22-28	Mendoza Ranch	MRN	many	eastern + western races
Yellow-rumped Warbler	100+	4/4	Bodega Bay	SON	NC	
Worm-eating Warbler	several	4/23	near Mobile, Alabama		DA	
Hermit Warbler	3	4/30	Mitchell Canyon	CCO	RR, AW	
Indigo Bunting	200+ flock	4/23	near Mobile, Alabama		DA	
Painted Bunting	several	4/23	near Mobile, Alabama		DA	
✓ Lawrence's Goldfinch	1	4/14	Petaluma	SON	DN	
Lawrence's Goldfinch	several	5/1	Mines Road	SCL	DE, DH, LP, RR, AW, NW	
White-throated Sparrow	1	4/14	Sonoma	SON	DA	
White-throated Sparrow	5	4/28	Kenwood	SON	RR	last day at feeder

Observers: Dick Ashford, Nancy Conzett, Doug Ellis, Betty Groce, David Hofmann, John McDonagh, Dan Nelson, Linda Petruccias, Ruth Rudesill, Alan Wight, Ned Wynn.

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.

1994-1995 Officers

President:	Richard E. Merriss, 2046 Hearn Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95407	525-8629
Vice-president:	Bob Rains, 450A Las Casitas, Santa Rosa, CA 95403	528-6785
Secretary:	Winnie Nelson, 400 Sunnyslope Avenue, Petaluma, CA 94952	762-6152
Treasurer:	Mike Nelligan, 124 Wikiup Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95403	576-1475

1994-1995 Chairpersons

Field Trips:	Open	
Observations:	John McDonagh, 1507 Hallmark Court, Santa Rosa, CA 95403	527-9115
Social:	Barbara Gumtow, 7915 Bella Vista Drive, Sebastopol, CA 95472	823-7869
Christmas Count:	Open	
Kite Tales:	Open	

Alan N. Wight
300 6th Street #2
Petaluma, CA 94952

