

KITE TALES

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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DECEMBER MEETING: 8:00 P.M. Thursday, December 12, 1968
Room 112 Darwin Hall of Sciences
Sonoma State College

SPEAKER: Robert Rubin, instructor at Santa Rosa Junior College, who will speak on "The Coexistence of Elegant and Caspian Terns on a Common Breeding Ground." Illustrated with the speaker's own slides.

Don't forget that our Christmas count will be held on Sunday, December 22. Contact Lynn Stafford if you and/or your friends can participate. 87 George St., Cotati, Cal., 94928. 795-7557

At the November meeting of the RROS Mr. 'Chuck' Brown presented an interesting program based upon his PhD research on the Red Salamander, Desmognathus eschscholtzii. He illustrated his talk with a film showing the habitat types for each of the several subspecies found within the state of California. The cryptic coloration of each of the subspecies was quite dramatic and intergrades were shown for those areas of overlap between subspecific populations. Mr. Brown is to be complimented for his excellent presentation.

Peter Leveque.



The material about the Point Reyes Bird Observatory which accompanies this issue comes from an organization which well deserves the backing of anyone with an interest in the wild birdlife of our area. Many of you are already actively supporting this venture. We suggest that the materials might be passed on to others. It is hoped that those who haven't yet joined with this enthusiastic, hard-working group of birders will soon do so. Their pursuit of directed, meaningful field studies will produce results not to be expected from the traditional observations of even the most skilled individual observer.

The November field trip of the BRCS was held on the 15th in the Gray Lodge Deerfield Management Area north of Sutter Buttes. It was a warm, overcast day with occasional brief appearances of the sun. Birding was excellent! Geese and ducks were seen by the thousands. The White-fronted Goose was by far the most common goose, followed by fewer thousands of Snow Geese. Small numbers of Canada Geese were seen and these were of the medium or small-sized race. On two occasions the Ross Goose was carefully and definitely identified. Despite a thorough search, none of the more unusual ducks were located. A single Rough-legged Hawk was seen at close range, and two Goshawk Partridge were observed at the Sertain Ranch just north of the refuge area. Over 200 sandhill cranes were seen at the refuge near the entrance road. This species was



noted frequently in its graceful flight and its deep, rolling call was in evidence throughout the day. The calls of Virginia Rail were heard and Common Gallinule were encountered often. Shorebirds which were listed were; Killdeer, Common Snipe, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, and Long-billed Dowitcher. Burrowing Owls were seen to good advantage through the spotting scopes. Yellow-billed Cuckoos were common in the vicinity although they were infrequently noted within the refuge limits. A lone Yellowthroat was heard

several times near the headquarters area and several handsome male Yellow-breasted Blackbirds were standouts amid a large flock of their less colorful kinemen.

Approximately 225 Whistling Swans were seen west of the Buttes in the late afternoon. Movements into and away from the nesting flock made for fine observations of its flight characteristics. A pair of Rock Wrens, many Lark Sparrows, and a goodly supply of Mountain Bluebirds were also seen in the swing around the Buttes.

The eleven members and guests felt well rewarded for their journey.

'Mike' Remmer.



Miller's note: Four species were listed on this field trip which had not previously been recorded by the BRCS. This raises our 'life-list' to 256. The new ones are: Ross Goose, Goshawk Partridge, Sandhill Crane, and Mountain Bluebird. Welcome into new habitats my birds!

Species noted:

Blue-billed Grebe
Great Blue Heron
Common Loon
American Bittern
Canada Goose
White-fronted Goose

Snow Goose
Lesser Goose
Willet
Gadwall
Herring
Green-winged Teal

Cinnamon Teal
 American Widgeon
 Shoveler
 Ruddy Duck
 Turkey Vulture
 Red-tailed Hawk
 Rough-legged Hawk
 Marsh Hawk
 Sparrow Hawk
 Ring-necked Pheasant
 Sandhill Crane
 Virginia Mall
 Common Gallinule
 American Coot
 Killdeer
 Common Snipe
 Greater Yellowlegs
 Least Sandpiper
 Dunlin
 Long-billed Dowitcher
 Ring-billed Gull
 Mourning Dove
 Burrowing Owl
 Belted Kingfisher
 Red-shafted Flicker

Downy Woodpecker
 Black Phoebe
 Yellow-billed Magpie
 Bewick Wren
 Long-billed Marsh Wren
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
 Water Pipit
 Loggerhead Shrike
 Starling
 Audubon Warbler
 Yellowthroat
 House Sparrow
 Western Meadowlark
 Yellow-headed Blackbird
 Redwinged Blackbird
 Tricolored Blackbird
 Brewer Blackbird
 Brown-headed Cowbird
 American Goldfinch
 Brown Towhee
 Savannah Sparrow
 White-crowned Sparrow
 Golden-crowned Sparrow
 Song Sparrow

All the above were seen in the Graylodge area. Additional species noted outside the refuge were as follows:

Whistling Swan
 White-tailed Kite
 Cooper Hawk
 California Quail
 Chukar Partridge
 Rock Wren
 Horned Lark
 Mountain Bluebird
 House Finch
 Lark Sparrow

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