

Kite Tales

Redwood Region Ornithological Society

Volume 32 Number 8

APRIL 1998



COMING EVENTS

Thursday April 9th GENERAL MEETING 7:30 pm Darwin Hall Room 221 Sonoma State University. The program will be:

BIRDING IN PERU WITH THE MIKES (Nelligan and Parmeter)

Each Mike has recorded his impression on slides of the romance and realities of Peru and its birds. In combination they will recreate the beauty and history of that interesting South American country.

FIELD TRIPS

Saturday April 18th Field Trip to Mitchell Canyon, Contra Costa County on the slope of Mt. Diablo. Meet at the parking lot at 9:00 am (there is a small fee.) Take Hwy 680 south to Walnut Creek. Take the Ygnacio Valley Road exit East. Once on Ygnacio Villy Rd travel 7.7 miles and turn south on to Clayton Rd. Go 1 mile and turn right on to Mitchell Canyon Rd. Follow this road to the end (1.6 miles.) This area is known for its wonderful wildflowers, butterflies, reptiles, and unusual migrant birds. Bring hiking shoes, water, and a lunch. Leader will be Mike Parmeter 255- 6757.

Memorial Day Weekend May 23-25 Trip to Sierra Valley and Cottonwood Creek??

Memorial Day weekend is proposed for this potentially great birding adventure. Cottonwood Creek (national Forest) Campground (6000 ft elevation) , 25 miles north of Truckee on Hwy 89 has a beautiful group campground is enough participants can be enlisted . All of the spring Sierra birds and wild flowers can be found right on the creek and wonderful scenic hiking opportunities start at the campground. Sierra Valley (5000 ft) high nesting wetland for Sandhill Cranes, Common Snipe, White-faced Ibis, Black terns, Willets, Bitterns, Avocets, rails, and ducks is a few miles away. Swainson's Hawks, Sage Thrashers, and Burrowing Owls nest in the uplands. Common Nighthawks may be at the campground.

Travel time: 3 ½ hours from Santa Rosa. It has been known to rain or snow on this weekend and the temperatures can range into the high 70's Great Campfires are guaranteed and all participants are asked to contribute ingredients for S'mores. We need to have payment in advance to reserve the group site. Cost may be about \$20/person to cover the campground rental fee. **May 1st is the deadline to reserve this group site** so if at least 20 people have not signed up by then the trip will be cancelled. The more, the merrier and the cheaper. Contact Mike Parmeter at 255-6757 to register or for further information.

Announcements

Dan Nelson's Mollymawk Offshore Adventures has a 1998 Calendar in place. Please see below. These are exciting trips! For information call Dan at 762-5167 or E-Mail dansbird@pacbell.net.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

FRI Apr 24	Long Range Trip - 1500 Fathoms
SAT May 16	Beyond Bodega Canyon/Cordell - 1200 Fathoms
FRI Jun 12	Cordell Bank
SAT Jul 25	Beyond Bodega Canyon/Cordell - 1200 Fathoms
SAT Aug 15	Beyond Bodega Canyon/Cordell - 1200 Fathoms
FRI Aug 28	North Wall of Bodega Canyon - Sonoma County Shelf
SAT Sep 19	Beyond Bodega Canyon/Cordell - 1200 Fathoms
SUN Oct 11	Cordell Bank
SAT Nov 14	Cordell Bank
SAT Dec 6	Beyond Bodega Canyon Cordell - 1200 Fathoms

Ken Wilson is offering two more of his great trips to **Costa Rica** this year. The tours are Northern & Central Splendors July 2-10-1998 and Southern & Central Pacific Treasures Nov.27 - Dec. 10, 1998. Call Ken at Talon Tours 823-8408 for more information.

Traveling to the East Coast this year? If you are heading to the mid-Atlantic region, Ruth has a flyer on the Pelagic Tours off Virginia and North Carolina led by Brian Patteson. They are finding more and more rare birds out there and it would be a great opportunity to add to your life list. Call Ruth 833-6026 if you are interested in seeing this brochure.

KITE TALES DEADLINES

Please observe the following deadlines when providing information for inclusion in the Kite Tales: Deadline for observations to Ned Wynn is the 20th of the month and for announcements/ articles to Ruth Rudesill by the 25th of the month. (addresses and phone numbers are listed on the back.)

MESSAGE FROM INCOMING PRESIDENT MIKE NELLIGAN

Many thanks to our retiring officers and chairpersons. Outgoing president, Bertha Rains can be proud of her contribution to keeping RROS viable and enjoyable. Mike Parmeter is resigning as field trip chairman for a desk job as RROS secretary. Mike is always capable and willing to provide his talents wherever needed. Also, we RROS members owe Mike a sincere vote of thanks for his many years of quality field trips-trips that keep members renewing their membership year after year.

Another retiring chairperson is Ruth Rudesill, our KITE TALES editor. Ruth has kept our communication link with members going. Some members can't or don't attend RROS meetings so they depend on the KITE TALES for information about observations, field trips, etc. Thanks to Ruth for all her time and effort.

Barbara Gumtow, our Social Chairperson, kept us supplied with nourishing and delicious refreshments, and arranged for the pre-meeting dinner arrangements at Mary's Pizza Parlor, Rohnert Park - near the Doubletree Inn. (All members and friends of RROS are welcome at this no-host informal gathering at 6:00 p.m. before each meeting held at SSU.) We thank her for past service and welcome her decision to continue for yet another year.

Betty Burrige has agreed to be treasurer another year. Thanks to Betty for maintaining the membership records, banking, and keeping the books in balance.

Ned Wynn has also agreed to continue as Observations Chairperson. He has done a great job of organizing all the reports.

Deyea Harper has graciously agreed to be vice president for 1998-99. This is a difficult position to fill but it is also one of the most important in that the vice president is responsible for coordinating programs. And interesting and informative programs add to the enjoyment of RROS membership. Deyea would welcome any suggestions or ideas you have for programs.

So, what all of this leads up to is that RROS needs a couple of members to step forward: one as field trip coordinator and another as KITE TALES editor. This should not be intimidating because a solid support system is in place. Mike Parmeter will be available to mentor the field trip chairperson with his wealth of knowledge and experience. Ruth Rudesill and Betty Burrige will share their computer cut and paste know-how with the KITE TALES editor. It has all been done successfully before by other people-you can do it too. If anyone is leaning, please give me a call and perhaps I can provide details.

FIELD TRIP REPORT by Ruth Rudesill

March 14-15th trip to the Sage Grouse Lek near Susanville, Lassen County

We had an extremely successful trip to Lassen County! Rick LeBaudour and Richard Merriss drove up the night before and spent all day Saturday birding and found 93 species in Lassen County from Eagle Lake to Honey Lake. Ned Wynn and I arrived Saturday afternoon and found 2 Northern Shrikes in the Honey Lake area as well as a Bald Eagle perched right over the road. We were lucky with the weather – sunny and warm. On Sunday morning we all got up very early drove to the lek with Rick's 4-wheel drive truck (no long hike!) It was still dark and we could hear the grouse already booming. In the light (after a beautiful sunrise) we saw a total of 10 males, 1 male who was not displaying—but still had the hen's attention, and 6-8 hens. Later in the day, Rick and Richard decided to head to Pyramid Lake in Nevada. Ned and I birded Janesville for the Lewis' Woodpecker and then followed them to Pyramid Lake. This was not a very birdy trip but was interesting country. We saw a Golden Eagle on the road, Rick and Richard had Prairie Falcons and we saw Sage Sparrows at several stops. At the lake, Rick and Richard saw the pelicans, some grebes, but few ducks. See complete list below:

Lassen County:

Pied-billed and Western Grebe; Double-cr. Cormorant; Great Blue Heron; Tundra Swan; Snow and Canada Goose; Green-winged Teal; Mallard; Pintail, Cinnamon Teal; Northern Shoveler; Gadwall; Am Wigeon; Canvasback; Ring-necked Duck; Lesser Scaup; Common Goldeneye; Bufflehead; Ruddy Duck; Turkey Vulture; Bald and Golden Eagle; Nor Harrier; Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawk; Red-tailed and Rough-legged Hawk; Am Kestrel; Prairie Falcon; Chukar; Ring-necked Pheasant; Sage Grouse; California Quail; Am Coot; Sandhill Crane; Killdeer; Common Snipe; Ring-billed and California Gull; Rock and Mourning Dove; Band-tailed Pigeon; Great Horned Owl; Lewis, Acorn, White-headed, and Downy Woodpecker; Northern Flicker; Say's Phoebe; Horned Lark; Tree Swallow; Steller's and Scrub Jay; Clark's Nutcracker; Black-billed Magpie; Am Crow; Raven; Mountain Chickadee; Red-br, White-br, and Pygmy Nuthatch; Brown Creeper; Rock, Marsh, and Bewick's Wren; Am Dipper; Golden-cr. Kinglet; Western and Mountain Bluebird; Townsend's Solitaire; Am Robin; Cedar Waxwing; Northern and Loggerhead Shrike; Nor. Mockingbird; Starling; Spotted Towhee; Sage, Song, White-cr, Golden-cr. Sparrow; Red-winged, Tricolored, Yellow-headed and Brewer's Blackbird; Western Meadowlark; Brown-headed Cowbird; Purple, Cassin's and House Finch; Pine Siskin; Lesser Goldfinch; Evening Grosbeak; & House Sparrow. 96 Species

Pyramid Lake area, Nevada List:

Western and Clark's Grebe; Am White Pelican; Double-cr. Cormorant; Common Goldeneye; Bufflehead; Common Merganser; Cooper's Hawk; Red-tailed and Ferruginous Hawk; Golden Eagle; American Coot; California Gull; Rock Dove; Northern Flicker; Say's Phoebe; Horned Lark; Common Raven; Black-billed Magpie; Bewick's Wren; American Pipit; Loggerhead Shrike; Starling; Yellow-rumped Warbler; Sage, Song, and White-cr Sparrow; Western Meadowlark; Brewer's Blackbird; House Finch; and Lesser Goldfinch. 31 species.

Phone Wheel - revision # 2

There was another late addition to the Phone Wheel so please post this new list next to your phone:

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------|---------------------------|
| 1. Bob Rains | 528-6785 | |
| 2. Richard Merriss | 525-8629 | |
| 3. Rick LeBaudour | 792-1800 | |
| 4. Wini Nelson | 762-6152 | |
| 5. Alan Wight | 763-8572 | |
| 6. Ted Eliot | 935-3410 | |
| 7. Mike Parmeter | 255-6757 | |
| 8. Wayne Tillay | 965-2978 | |
| 9. Ruth Rudesill | 833-6026 | (h) 763-7877 ex 157(work) |
| 10. Dan Wilson | 579-3949 | |
| 11. Betty Groce | 539-8664 | |
| 12. Betty Burrridge | 527-0225 | |
| 13. Avis Anderson | 539-0470 | |
| 14. Deyea Harper | 542-1542 | |
| 15. David Hofmann | 546-0325 | |
| 16. Linda Petrulias | 632-5532 | |
| 17. Louise Johnston | 823-2245 | |
| 18. Ned Wynn | 431-8412 | |

OBSERVATIONS MARCH 1998 – Sonoma County

BIRD	#	DATE	LOCATION	OBSERVERS	NOTES
American Bittern	3	3/15	Schollenberger Park	TE	High #s
Blue-winged Teal	2-5	3/14-5	Schollenberger Park	AW, TE	Male/4 fem
Blue-Winged Tealx Nor Shoveler	1	3/14-5	Schollenberger Park Petlauma	AW, TE	Hybrid male
Tufted Duck	1	3/14	Schollenberger Park	AW	Female
Wood Duck	2	3/10	Austin Creek	BDP,SP,DH,JD	Pair
Osprey	1	3/10	Salt Point	BDP,SP,DH,JD	
Peregrine Falcon	1	3/11	Petaluma Hill Road	AW	
Merlin	1	3/10	King Ridge Road	BDP,SP,DH,JD	
Black Rail	1	3/14	Schollenberger Park	AW,BDP	Calling
Mountain Quail	sev	3/10	King Ridge Road	BDP,SP,DH,JD	
Nor. Pygmy-Owl	4	3/10	King Ridge Road	BDP,SP,DH,JD	Calling
Rufous Hummingbird	1	3/22	Healdsburg feeder	DW,IS,KD,NW	Male
Rufous Hummingbird	1	3/7	Rail Ponds Bodega Bay	TE	
Western Flycatcher	1	3/10	Bear Pen Creek	BDP,SP,DH,JD	Calling
American Dipper	1	3/10	Austin Creek	BDP,SP,DH,JD	Nest
Orange-cr. Warbler	1	3/10	Tin Barn Road	BDP,SP,DH,JD	Singing
Rufous-cr. Sparrow	1	3/10	King Ridge Road	BDP,SP,DH,JD	
Chipping Sparrow	1	3/22	Healdsburg	NW,IS	Feeder new yard bird
White-throated Sparrow	3	March	Kenwood feeder	RAR	Singing!

OBSERVATIONS – MARCH 1998 outside Sonoma County

BIRD	#	DATE	LOCATION	CO	OBSERVERS	NOTES
Hooded Merganser	2	3/8	Henry Road	NAP	BDP, TE	Pair
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1	3/9	Cunningham Park	SLC	TE	2 nd winter
Lewis' Woodpecker	1	3/8	Henry Road	NAP	BDP, TE	
White-throated Swift	2	3/15	Skyline Park	NAP	BDP	
Cliff Swallow	1	3/15	Skyline Park	NAP	BDP	
Rufous-cr. Sparrow	1	3/15	Skyline Park	NAP	BDP	Singing

Observers: Karen Dolan, Juanita Doran, Ted Eliot, David Hofmann, Mike Parmeter, Sally Parmeter, Ruth Rudesill, Ivan Sandrino, Alan Wight, Donna Wynn, and 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 the second Thursday of each month, September through May. Regular general meetings (October through April) are held at 7:30 pm in Room 221 Darwin Hall, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, California. Dues are \$15 per family, \$8 per individual, or \$3 per student for one year membership. Send dues to the treasurer shown below.

1997-1998 Officers

President:	Bertha Rains, 450A Las Casitas, Santa Rosa, CA 95403	528-6785
Vice-President:	Mike Nelligan, 124 Wikiup Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95403	576-1475
Secretary:		
Treasurer:	Betty Burridge, 1653 Arroyo Sierra, Santa Rosa, CA 95404	527-0225

1997-1998 Chairpersons

Field Trips:	Benjamin D. Parmeter, 2500 Emerson Street, Napa, CA 94558	255-6757
Observations:	Ned Wynn, 129-B Powell Avenue, Healdsburg, CA 95448	431-8412
Social:	Barbara Gumtow, 7915 Bella Vista Drive, Sebastopol, CA 95472	823-7869
Christmas Count:	Doug Ellis, PO Box 155, Eldridge, CA 95431	
Kite Tales:	Ruth Rudesill, PO Box 371, Kenwood, CA 95452	833-6026

RUTH RUDESILL
PO BOX 371
KENWOOD CA 95452

