

Kite Tales



Redwood Region Ornithological Society

Volume 33 Number 1

September 1998

Coming Attractions

September 10th, Thursday, 6:00 PM - General Meeting & Fall Potluck

Lower Jack Rabbit group picnic area Spring Lake Park, Santa Rosa

Come together for a sharing of food and fall sightings (or vacation sightings) at Spring Lake. Be sure to bring your own plate, utensils, and a serving spoon for your potluck dish. Entrance is on Newanga, off of Summerfield Rd. The entrance fee is \$4.00 per car. We will do some birding after a short business meeting. The group picnic area is reserved for us all day; come early and pin down the rare ones for the rest of us.

September 19th, Saturday - The PRBO Bird-A-Thon 1998

Point Reyes Bird Observatory is holding this year's Bird-A-Thon in just a few weeks. Those wishing to participate by counting should be enlisting sponsors now. There are probably still a few teams with room for additional counters. Anyone inclined to count on their own still needing counter's packet should contact Deena Wade at 415 868-1221 extension 24. (Anyone seeking a worthy team to sponsor or to join in the field please call Gerry Mugele at 707 766-8682)

September 20th, Sunday, 7:15 AM - Field Trip to outer Pt. Reyes

Meet in the Park & Ride lot at Highway 101 and Lakeville (Hwy 116) for car pooling. We will, of course, be looking for those exciting vagrants and migrants. Lunch is available at Drakes Beach Visitor Center or bring your own. Be prepared with comfortable shoes and jacket or sweater. Temperatures can vary widely and strong winds likely. Leader: Ruth Rudesill 707 833-6026

The 20th is the deadline for Kite Tales observations. Please forward sightings to Ned Wynn 129-B Powell Ave. Healdsburg, Ca 95448
707 431-8412 or via email: ekwynn@sonic.net

September 25th, Tuesday - Kite Tales deadline

Send announcements and articles to Gerry Mugele PO Box 813 Glen Ellen, Ca 95442 or via email: mewgull@ix.netcom.com

RROS - Report of Finances 1997 - 1998

Beginning bank balance, 1 July 1997.....\$1,599.47 *

Receipts:

Dues.....\$ 933.00
 Book sales..... 135.23
 Interest on savings..... 64.93
 Checklist sales and misc..... 34.00
 Donations..... 119.00
Total receipts for the year..... 1346.16

Disbursements:

Kite Tales newsletter.....\$ 519.92
 Donation, SSU Biology Department..... 200.00
 Book sales proceeds to heirs of co-author..... 67.62
 Guest speakers..... 75.00
 Meeting place rent, potluck..... 62.50
 Postage, taxes, filing fees..... 35.20
 Christmas count expenses
 Miscellaneous..... 5.00
Total disbursements for the year.....-965.24

Ending bank balance, 30 June 1998.....\$1,980.39 *

* Includes \$1,250 certificate of deposit

Betty Burrige, Treasurer



And speaking of finances:

Dues are due! Have you paid your dues for the 1998 - 1999 year? If not, now is a good time to get your check in the mail to our esteemed Treasurer, Betty Burrige. Do it now before you forget. RROS is still a great bargain at \$15 per year for a family, \$8 for an individual membership and a mere \$3 for the impoverished students among us. Betty is waiting by her mail box at 1653 Arroyo Sierra, Santa Rosa, Ca 95404 to hear from you.

Field Trip Report

Southeastern Arizona - August 7th - 9th 1998 - by Ruth Rudesill

Five participants were: Doug Ellis, Len and Lynn Gearhart (from Wilsonville, Oregon), Linda Petrulias and me. We were blessed with pretty good weather - warm with afternoon showers, including hail on Mt. Lemmon. Until the last afternoon the rain didn't keep us from the field. Everyone got lifebirds and Doug saw many new butterflies, but we also had bad luck on some of the target birds. The first afternoon we were near the Sonoran Desert Museum where Doug had scouted a family of **Varied Buntings** - mom, pop, and two fledglings. Then we drove up Mt. Lemmon where we stopped at different lifezones for a variety of birds.

Our second day we traveled from the Santa Rita grasslands sighting a variety of sparrows and a Goshawk flew out of the canyon to capture a bird. We drove to the Patagonia area and saw birds at the famed rest stop, including a **Violet-crowned Hummingbird** and nest (which Linda spotted) and **Gray Hawks**. Unfortunately the Becard eluded us but we saw two nests. After lunch we traveled to the Patons backyard in Patagonia which borders the preserve. It is wonderful how these people open their yard for birders to sit and watch the feeders. We saw a variety of hummers there but none of the truly rare ones we were hoping for. Then we went on to Kino Springs for **Black-bellied Whistling Duck**

and what was probably the best bird of the trip - a **Green Kingfisher!** We continued to a spot where Doug had seen a **Buff-collared Nightjar** on the road a few nights earlier; he was able to drive up to it. We had one set of orangish eyes shine that might have been the bird but the road had a lot of traffic and no other nightjars were seen although Poorwill were calling all over. Back at Madera Canyon, Doug easily called the **Whiskered Screech Owl** and he had good luck hearing the rare Arizona **Spotted Owl**.

The third morning we concentrated on the Santa Rita grasslands and Florida Wash area where we saw more sparrows and a variety of birds. Then moving up into the canyon, we hiked looking for the Trogons but were unable to locate them. We did find **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** and **Painted Redstart**. At the Santa Rita Lodge we watched the many hummingbird feeders for a while and saw numerous species but the rare ones eluded us. (Berylline reportedly showed up after we left.) I witnessed an amazing sight: there were Acorn Woodpeckers in the area and the hummers were buzzing and the birds. One hummer, a Broad-billed I believe, buzzed a passing Acorn Woodpecker. The woodpecker turned in midair and caught the hummer like a big bug! It flew to a nearby oak and whacked the poor hummer against the trunk and then flew off.

Below is the complete trip list - Those marked with a 'd' are birds seen by Doug alone since he had several additional days to explore the area.

Great Blue Heron	Northern Goshawk	White-winged Dove
Green Heron	Gray Hawk	Mourning Dove
Black-bellied Whistling Duck	Swainson's Hawk - d	Inca Dove
Wood Duck	Red-tailed Hawk	Common Ground Dove
Mallard	Golden Eagle	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
"Mexican" Duck	American Kestrel	Greater Roadrunner
Northern Shoveler	Gambel's Quail	Barn Owl - d
Ring-necked Duck	American Coot	Western Screech Owl
Black Vulture	Killdeer	Whiskered Screech Owl
Turkey Vulture	Rock Dove	Great-horned Owl
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Band-tailed Pigeon - d	Elf Owl - d

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Spotted Owl - d	Thick-billed Kingbird	Warbling Vireo
Lesser Nighthawk - d	Western Kingbird	Virginia's Warbler
Common Nighthawk - d	Purple Martin	Lucy's Warbler
Common Poorwill	Violet-green Swallow	Yellow Warbler
Buff-collared Nightjar - d	Cliff Swallow	Common Yellowthroat
Whip-poor-will - d	Barn Swallow	Wilson's Warbler
Vaux's Swift	Steller's Jay	Painted Redstart
White-throated Swift	Western Scrub Jay	Yellow-breasted Chat
Broad-billed Hummingbird	Mexican Jay	Olive Warbler - d
Violet-crowned Hummingbird	Chihuahuan Raven	Hepatic Tanager - d
Blue-throated Hummingbird	Common Raven	Summer Tanager
Magnificent Hummingbird	Mexican Chickadee - d	Western Tanager
Lucifer Hummingbird - d	Mountain Chickadee	Northern Cardinal
Black-chinned Hummingbird	Bridled Titmouse	Pyrrhuloxia
Anna's Hummingbird	Verdin	Black-headed Grosbeak
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Blue Grosbeak
Rufous Hummingbird - d	White-breasted Nuthatch	Varied Bunting
Elegant Trogon - d	Pygmy Nuthatch	Spotted Towhee - d
Green Kingfisher - d	Brown Creeper	Canyon Towhee
Acorn Woodpecker	Cactus Wren	Abert's Towhee
Gila Woodpecker	Rock Wren	Botteri's Sparrow
Gilded Flicker	Canyon Wren	Cassin's Sparrow
Northern Flicker	Bewick's Wren	Rufous-winged Sparrow - d
Hairy Woodpecker	House Wren	Rufous-crowned Sparrow
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	Ruby-crowned Kinglet - d	Lark Sparrow
Stickland's Woodpecker - d	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Black-throated Sparrow
Northern Beardless Tyrannulet - d	Black-tailed Gnatcatcher	Song Sparrow
Western Wood Peewee	Eastern Bluebird - d	Yellow-eyed Junco
Willow Flycatcher	American Robin	Bobolink (rare in Arizona)
Cordilleran Flycatcher	Northern Mockingbird	Eastern Meadowlark
Black Phoebe	Bendire's Thrasher - d	Great-tailed Grackle
Say's Phoebe	Curve-billed Thrasher	Brown-headed Cowbird
Vermillion Flycatcher	Phainopepla	Bullock's Oriole
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	Loggerhead Shrike	House Finch
Brown-crested Flycatcher	European Starling - d	Red Crossbill - d
Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher	Bell's Vireo	Lesser Goldfinch
Cassin's Flycatcher	Plumbeus Vireo	Hutton's Vireo
		House Sparrow

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Observations by Ned Wynn

I have lost or misplaced some of the correspondence that I got from people early in the summer, and lost data because I bought a new computer and didn't get everything transferred over. So I am submitting what I do have. Sorry about this, but there you are. My apologies to anyone who does not see their sightings.

<u>Species</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Red-necked Grebe	1	5/17	MacKerricher	MEN	DT	alternate plumage
"	1	5/5	Campbell Cove	SON	NC	alternate plumage
American Bittern	1	7/27	Kenwood	SON	RR	flying over hwy 12
"	1	5/24	Schollenberger Park	SON	BB, MN	nest tending?
Least Bittern	1	8/2	Olema Marsh	MAR	BDP, EKW	
Black Scoter	1	5/17	MacKerricher	MEN	DT	late
Wandering Tattler	2	5/5	Campbell Cove	SON	NC	alternate plumage
Solitary Sandpiper	1	4/19	Hopland Fld Stn	MEN	CV, GC, DE, BK	
"	1	4/25	Ukiah Wastewater Ponds	MEN	GC, DE, BK, CV	
Red Knot	1	7/18	Doran Park	SON	RR, LG	
Surfbird	2	5/18	MacKerricher	MEN	DT	Late
Dunlin	2	7/18	Doran Park	SON	RR, LG	alternate Plumage
Rhinoceros Auklet	2	6/6	Bodega Head	SON	BDP, DH, TE	
Black Tern	1	5/2	Ukiah Wastewater Ponds	MEN	GC, CV, mob	
Black-legged Kittiwake	1	4/25	VanDamme	MEN	DT	near shore
Sabine's Gull	1	5/10	MacKerricher	MEN	DT	on shore, alt. plumage
Bonaparte's Gull	6	5/17	Abbott's Lagoon	MAR	DW, EKW	1 male alt. plum., displaying, 5 fem.
Bristle-thighed Curlew	1	5/16	-?Kehoe Beach	MAR	LL, CL, mob	1st Ca record? (same day Crescent City?)
Purple Martin	1	8/2	Olema Marsh	MAR	BDP, EKW	
"	2	6/21	Pine Flat Rd. (top)	SON	AW, EKW	
Lesser Nighthawk	2	6/13	Pt. Reyes	MAR	AW	
Costa's Hummingbird	1	4/22	Ft. Bragg	MEN	DT	feeder, 2nd county rcd
Dusky Flycatcher	1	6/13	Pt. Reyes	MAR	AW	
Willow Flycatcher	1	6/13	Pt. Reyes	MAR	AW	
Cave Swallow	1	8/2	Olema Marsh	MAR	BDP	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	4/19	10-Mile River mouth	MEN	DT	scarce along coast
Hooded Warbler	1	5/13	Sonoma Mt.	SON	TE	backyard
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1	6/13	Pt. Reyes	MAR	AW	singing male
Ovenbird	1	6/13	Pt. Reyes	MAR	AW	
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	1	6/21	Macayamas Preserve	SON	AW, EKW	singing
Dickcissel	1	6/13	Pt. Reyes	MAR	AW	heard only

(seen by RS & others previous day)

Observers: Betty Burrige, George Chaniot, Nancy Konzett, Demian Ebert, Ted Eliot, Lynn Gearhart, David Hoffman, Bob Keiffer, Cindy Lieurance, Leslie Lieurance, Mike Nelligan, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Ruth Rudesill, Rich Stallcup, Chuck Vaughn, Jerry White, Alan Wight, Donna Wynn, Edmond K. 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.

1998 - 1999 Officers:

President: Mike Nelligan, 124 Wikiup Drive, Santa Rosa CA 95403 707 576-1475
E-Mail: bandm@monitor.net

Vice President: Deyea Harper, 2310 Northwood Dr., Santa Rosa CA 95404 707 542-1542
E-Mail: JHarperTrustee@compuserve.com

Secretary: Benjamin D. Parmeter, 2500 Emerson St., Napa CA 94558 707 255-6757

Treasurer: Betty Burrige, 1653 Arroyo Sierra Way, Santa Rosa CA 95405 707 527-0225
E-Mail: bettyb@monitor.net

1998 - 1999 Chairs:

Field Trips: Ruth Rudesill, PO Box 371, Kenwood CA 95452 707 833-6026

Observations: Ned Wynn, 129-B Powell Ave., Healdsburg CA 707 431-8412
E-Mail: ekwynn@sonic.net

Social: Barbara Gumtow, 7915 Bella Vista Dr., Sebastopol CA 95472 707 823-7869

Christmas Count: Doug Ellis, PO Box 776, Kenwood CA 95452 707 935-3410
Ted Eliot, 5850 Grove St., Sonoma CA 95476

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