

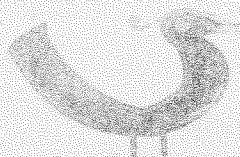
September 1973

SEPTEMBER

KITE TALES

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
VOL. 8- NO. 1 SANTA ROSA, CALIF.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS.....



September 13, Thurs.: Potluck dinner and first fall meeting

Be sure and save the date! The potluck will be held at the home of John and Irma Schallert, 5640 Hall Road, Santa Rosa, at 6:30 p.m. Come and bring a dish to serve 4. Irma will provide salad and wine. No need to R.S.V.P.; if you have any questions, call Linda Hanes, 545-5751.

September 14, Fri.: Deadline for contributions to Oct. Kite Tales

Please send any ideas, comments, writings to Elizabeth Stafford, P.O. Box 361, Kenwood, 95452, or call 833-8491.

September 22, Sat.: RROO field trip to Olema Marsh and Point Reyes area

Gordon Bolander will lead this trip and asks people to meet in the town of Point Reyes at 8:00 a.m. (Late arrivals will find the group by the Olema Marsh.) Over 100 species are expected; bring a lunch, glasses, and friends.

October 14, Sat.: Off-shore trip from Bodega Bay

Mike Parmeter has scheduled this trip. Cost is \$11.00, payable to him in advance. His address is: 2500 Emerson St., Napa, Ca. 94558.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.....

Fall brings with it amazement at how fast a pleasant summer can pass and the realization that one must begin to plan for coming events in a busy year. I have been thinking off and on about what all of us can do to help RROO and promote a wider interest in wildlife. Several suggestions have come to me that require some thought and effort. I guess now is the time to put a few ideas on paper.



1). I feel we need a vigorous effort to recruit new members and welcome back old ones that have fallen away. I hope to appoint a membership committee soon. Would you volunteer?

2). I would like to see additional, informal, field trips to attract young and inexperienced birders. These might be confined to the immediate area of Santa Rosa where kids on bikes could attend. Area scienc

teachers could be alerted.

3). Both of the above require good publicity. A publicity committee would be useful if we have volunteers.

4). I personally would like to see RRCS contribute more directly to the development of a recorded natural history of Sonoma County. Perhaps we could somehow centralize sightings, keep records of migrations, bird kills, nestings, etc. to aid in conservation efforts. I understand, for instance, that when the oil spills occurred on the coast, no records were available to determine if more birds than usual were dying and being washed up on shore. The records of Gordon Bolander came to the rescue and provided the only data available.

In my opinion, all of us could contribute to this record with a minimum of effort by submitting sightings to a natural history committee. We could also, after a couple of years, develop some comparative information and perhaps provide some interesting information for the newspaper and other media to call attention to the conservation effort.

These have been my summer's off and on thoughts. If these or some thoughts of your own strike a cord of interest, let's talk it over at the potluck and make a busy year even busier-- but satisfying.

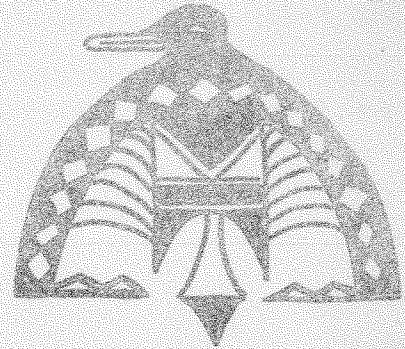
David Hanes

BOOK NOTES.....
(Comments on books or articles by members. Please share anything you have found of interest recently.)

Bird Ambulance

Dr. Arnold has commented by letter on this book: "A recent addition to the GCS Library is worth a few comments. This is Bird Ambulance by Arline Thomas, published by Scribner's Sons. I believe every one running a bird feeding station and/or

attempting to rescue birds should read this book. Probably the RRCS and Madrone Clubs should have a loan copy. The book makes interesting reading as well as contains a number of "what to feed" and "what to do" suggestions." (Dr. Arnold has made a copy of diets from the book.)



Words for Birds

New book in Santa Rosa City Library: Words for Birds: A Lexicon of North American Birds with Biographical Notes by Edward S. Gruson, 1972.

For anyone as curious as I am about origins of names, this book will be most useful. Gruson gives the origin of both the common English names and the scientific binomials of all North American, Aleutian Island, and Hawaiian species. In addition, he includes extensive biographical notes on persons whose names are included in birds' names. Who was Anna of Anna's Hummingbird? And why is our Western Meadowlark the 'neglected' meadowlark (Sturnella neglecta)? The book is classified in S.R. Library as a reference book in the Birds section (R 598.297). See next page for a name game.

Lynn Stafford

Name Game:

Following are the English translations of the scientific names of eight bird species found in Sonoma County. How many can you name? (Source: Gruson's book.)

1. Tree dweller with red spots on the skin (Hint: a warbler)
2. Western spear-bearer (Hint: Western _____)
3. Cave-dwelling miner owl
4. Rock-inhabiting air sailor (Hint: the most common species in its family)
5. Sea-green swift mover
6. Melodious song finch
7. Crested tree cleaver
8. Hooded crested diver

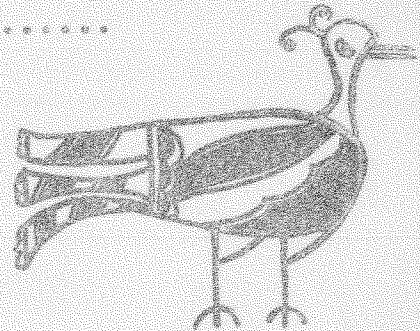
(See below for answers)

New Checklist of Birds in Pt. Reyes Area

According to The Quail, Sept. 1973, (Bulletin of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society), "A new checklist of birds of the Pt. Reyes area is now available for 10¢ at Lucas Book Store in Berkeley, Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory in Bolinas, and Pt. Reyes National Seashore Headquarters in Bear Valley."

MEMBER SIGHTINGS.....

Gordon Bolander reports two very interesting sightings at his home. On July 20th he saw a Common Nighthawk. There is no previous record for the county of this bird. On July 25th, Gordon saw a Summer Tanager, Eastern Race, --the first Northern record of this bird.



AOU CHECKLIST REVISION.....

Budd Gralapp, at Baron Mc Lean's suggestion, has contributed an article from the July-Aug. 1973 issue of "The Gull", on the AOU checklist revision. This article appears on the next two pages of Kite Tales.

8. Hooded Merganser - *Lophodytes cucullatus*
7. Pileated Woodpecker - *Dryocopus pileatus*
6. Song Sparrow - *Melospiza melodia*
5. Violet-green Swallow - *Tachycineta thalassina*
4. White-throated Swift - *Aeronautes saxatilis*
3. Screech Owl - *Bubo asio*
2. Western Grebe - *Aechmophorus occidentalis*
1. Yellow Warbler - *Dendroica petechia*

Answers to Name Game:

AOU CHECKLIST REVISED

(From "The Gull", July-Aug., 1973 -- Bulletin of the Golden Gate Audubon Society)

The April 1973 issue of The Auk, the journal of the American Ornithologists Union, published the 32nd supplement to the AOU Checklist. The supplement includes all changes accepted by the AOU Committee on Classification and Nomenclature since the publication of the fifth edition of the AOU Checklist in 1957. Virtually all field guides and local checklists are based on the 1957 AOU Checklist, so presumably new editions of many of these will be forthcoming.

The AOU Checklist is the official roster of species of birds used by ornithologists and birdwatchers in the United States and Canada. Contrary to popular belief, a species is not a fixed entity. The very notion of a species is a human invention of convenience that nature itself ignores. Whether the Yellow-shafted and Red-shafted Flickers are two distinct species or two races of a single species makes little difference to the birds themselves. They go on doing much the same things they always have regardless of what we choose to call them. But for the distinctly human purposes of birdwatching and ornithology, classification and nomenclature are essential. Man has a powerful impulse to name things so that he may know them. The purpose of the AOU Checklist is partly to ensure that we all apply the same names to the same birds and thereby understand each other. One need only examine the nicknames conferred by hunters on ducks to understand the potential onomastic chaos that can exist in the absence of some central authority.

But the AOU Checklist also reflects our latest understanding of various bird populations. As research continues and grows more sophisticated, our previously held notions are changed. Oldtimers have seen numerous changes of the sort represented by the 32nd supplement to the checklist and know that professional ornithologists are constantly revising their ideas--as they well should. But such revisions can play havoc with lifelists, expanding them as two races of one species become two distinct species and--alas--contracting them as two formerly separate species suddenly become one. Yet for most of us, the bird is the thing, and whether we gain or lose a few names on our lifelist remains of secondary importance.

In any case, the more significant changes in classification and nomenclature in the 32nd supplement to the AOU Checklist are reprinted below.

The following list consists of formerly separate species that have been merged into a single species: Great White Heron becomes GREAT BLUE HERON; Blue Goose becomes SNOW GOOSE; Common Teal becomes GREEN-WINGED TEAL; Harian's Hawk becomes RED-TAILED HAWK; Yellow-shafted, Red-shafted, and Gilded Flicker become COMMON FLICKER; Black-eared Bushtit and Common Bushtit become BUSHTIT; Bahama Honey-creeper becomes BANANAQUIT; Audubon Warbler and Myrtle Warbler becomes YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER; Bullock's Oriole and Baltimore Oriole become NORTHERN ORIOLE; Ipswich Sparrow becomes SAVANNAH SPARROW; Dusky Seaside Sparrow and Cape Sable Sparrow become SEASIDE SPARROW; Slate-colored, White-winged, Oregon, and Guadelupe Juncos become DARK-EYED JUNCO; Mexican Junco becomes YELLOW-EYED JUNCO.

AOU CHECKLIST REVISED, cont.

The following list consists of formerly single species that have been separated into two or more distinct species: CHUKAR becomes a separate species from the European ROCK PARTRIDGE; THAYER'S GULL becomes a separate species from the HERRING GULL; Traill's Flycatcher becomes WILLOW FLYCATCHER and ALDER FLYCATCHER (Western species)*; GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE becomes a separate species from BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE.

The following list consists of changes in the names of various species. These changes do not reflect any change in their status as species: Fulmar becomes NORTHERN FULMAR; Pale-footed Shearwater becomes FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER; Slender-billed Shearwater becomes SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER; Petrels of the Hydrobatidae family will now be called STORM PETRELS (i.e. Leach's Petrel becomes LEACH'S STORM PETREL and Fork-tailed Petrel becomes FORK-TAILED STORM PETREL.) Common Egret becomes GREAT EGRET; Wood Ibis becomes WOOD STORK; Widgeon is now spelled WIGEON; Shoveler becomes NORTHERN SHOVELER; Common Scoter becomes BLACK SCOTER; Gray Sea Eagle becomes WHITE-TAILED EAGLE; Pigeon Hawk becomes MERLIN; Sparrow Hawk becomes AMERICAN KESTREL; Harlequin Quail becomes MONTEZUMA QUAIL; Upland Plover becomes UPLAND SANDPIPER; Knot becomes RED KNOT; Robin becomes AMERICAN ROBIN; Catbird becomes GRAY CATBIRD; Yellowthroat becomes COMMON YELLOWTHROAT; Parula Warbler becomes NORTHERN PARULA.

These changes are effective immediately. For further information, consult the April 1973 issue of The Auk.

.....

* WILLOW FLYCATCHER, E. Traill, is the Western species, not ALDER FLYCATCHER, as reported in "The Gull".

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Established in 1962 for the purpose of
encouraging the study and conservation of
birds, other wildlife, and their natural
habitat.

OFFICERS, 1972-1973:

PRESIDENT Dr. L.W. Gralapp, 6177 Batesole Dr., Santa Rosa, Ca. 95404
VICE-PRES David Hanes, 3237 Midway Drive, Santa Rosa, Ca. 95405
SECRETARY Elizabeth Stafford, P.O. Box 361, Kenwood, Ca. 95452
TREASURER Irma Schallert, 5640 Hall Rd., Santa Rosa, Ca. 95401
KITE TALES
Editor Gordon Bolander, 1650 Timber Hill Rd., Santa Rosa, Ca. 95401

OFFICER NOMINEES, 1973-1974

PRESIDENT David Hanes, 3237 Midway Drive, Santa Rosa, Ca. 95405
546-5751
VICE-PRES Lynn Stafford, P.O. Box 361, Kenwood, Ca. 95452
833-6491
SECRETARY John Parmeter, 2500 Emerson St., Napa, Ca. 94558
255-6757
TREASURER Irma Schallert, 5640 Hall Rd., Santa Rosa, Ca. 95401
546-0837
KITE TALES
Editor Elizabeth Stafford, P.O. Box 361, Kenwood, Ca. 95452
833-6491

.....

(Illustrations in this Kite Tales are from the book Decorative Art of the Southwestern Indians, by Dorothy Smith Bides (Dover, 1961); they are tribal bird forms from pottery designs of San Ildefonso, Zuni, Acoma, and Hopi Indians.)