

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
VOL. 8 - NO. 2 SANTA ROSA, CA.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS.

October 6, Saturday: RROS Field trip to look for migrating hawks

Gordon Bolander will lead. Meet at Vista Point, on the North side of the Golden Gate Bridge, at 9 a.m.



October 11, Thursday: October meeting of RROS.

The regular meeting of the RROS will be held at 8 p.m. in Room 221 of the Charles Darwin Hall of Science, California State College, Sonoma, Bohnert Park. Jack Guggolz, Mike and John Parmeter and Gordon Bolander will speak on "Southern California Birds: Birds Around the Salton Sea, San Diego and Offshore", and will show slides from their recent trip.

October 14, Sunday: Off-shore trip from Bodega Bay (already filled).

October 15, Monday: Deadline for contributions to November Kite Tales. Please send any news sightings, ideas or writing to Elizabeth Stafford, Box 361, Kenwood, 95452 or call 833-6491.

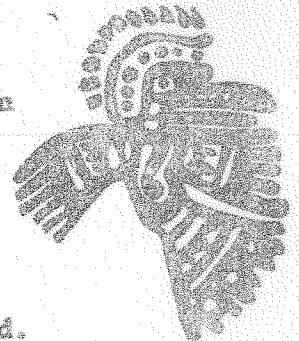
November 3, Saturday: First film in Audubon Wildlife Film series sponsored by Madrone Audubon Society, RROS, Santa Rosa Junior College. Walter E. Harlet's film "West Side Story--Mexico to Alaska" will be shown at 7:30 p.m. in the Luther Burbank Theater, Santa Rosa Junior College. Tickets for single performances are \$1.00, Students \$.50, children \$.25. Season tickets are: family \$6.00, single \$3.00.

November 8, 1973: November meeting of RROS. Slides on East Africa will be shown by Elmer Aldrich. More details will be announced in the November Kite Tales.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING.....

A very fine potluck dinner at the Schallerts was enjoyed by all. At the business meeting, the slate of officers nominated in the spring was officially elected. President Dave Hanes brought up ideas for new RROS projects for the coming year, and the rest of the evening was spent in enthusiastic and fruitful discussion.

We discussed at length the idea (mentioned in Dave's President's Message in the last Kite Tales), of a compilation of data from bird observations in Sonoma County. It was suggested that members could bring check lists of their observations in the county to RROS meetings each month. Dave said that a computer at CSC, Sonoma could be used to organize and compile the information. We talked about how the lists could be labeled and standardized for the computer and how the county might be divided into zones. Possibly target areas of special interest or importance might be established. Some of the zones suggested were Santa Rosa, Timberhill and the lagoon, Bodega area, the major state parks in the county. A committee was organized to set up the zones: Deyce Harper, Carmen Patterson, Lynn Stafford and Dave Hanes volunteered and Gordon Bolander was proposed.



Such a compilation of a great deal of data could be very interesting in itself and might be extremely useful in conservation efforts in the county.

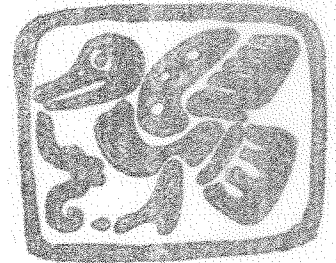
A second new project idea, of a series of local field trips with educational emphasis was proposed. Several people felt they would like to know local areas better. Local field trips could also be a good way to involve more young people in birding; we talked about communication with schools and teachers about such trips. Several good areas for local trips were mentioned: Lake Ralphine, Spring lake areas, the Trinity Road and Cavedale loop (near Glen Ellen, East of Highway 12), and Lichas Road (for the spring). The need for publicity was discussed. We will talk more about these projects at the October meeting; bring your comments and ideas.

Special thanks to the Schallerts for their hospitality and to Linda Hanes for organizing the potluck!

BOOK NOTES

PLACES TO BUY BOOKS

The September and October '73 issues of "The Quail", the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society Bulletin mention good places to buy bird books, field lists etc.



"The Quail" comments on two local bookstores: "The best place in this area for books, field lists, annotated lists, etc., is Lucas Book Store, 2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, Ca. 94704." Another source of "good books on birds and other nature-oriented subjects...is Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum's bookstore, located in the Museum at 1901 First Avenue., Walnut Creek (935-1978. All profits go to help the Museum function."

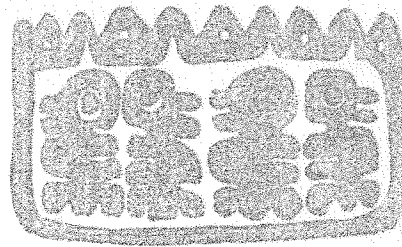
Companies from which material can be ordered by mail are, according to the "Quail":
The Audubon Bookcase, 138 Grand St., Groton-on-Hudson, N.Y. 10520. "...prices are lower than most places, even with postage and handling"....
The Pierce Book Co., Winthrop, Iowa, 50682. "...has a catalogue with an unbelievably large listing of bird books."
Dover Publications, Inc., 180 Varick St., N.Y., N.Y. 10014 "...has a good selection of books which are reprints of more expensive editions."

WORK ON BIRDS BY CALIFORNIA STATE COLLEGE, SONOMA STUDENTS

Have you ever wondered as you come in to RROS meetings at Darwin Hall, what research on birds is being done by students here? Dr. Arnold has sent the Kite Tales Dennis Cornwall's interesting summary of his study of "Photoperiodic Responses of the Anna Hummingbird":

"Most Northern temperate birds use day length as a triggering mechanism to stimulate gonadal development and reproductive behaviour. The Anna Hummingbird, *Calypte Anna*, is one of the earliest breeding birds in North America. Is the Anna responding to day-length? No. To test this, I intend to subject birds to prolonged shortened photo-periods at a time when, under normal conditions, the days are lengthening. The results may give some indication as to how this bird responds to day-length."

MEMBER SIGHTINGS: A Late Summer Big Day



The following report is from Mike Parmeter:

Here is an account of a recent big day in Sonoma County.

Date - 9/3/73

Participants - Gordon Bolander, Herb McGrew, Mike Parmeter, John Parmeter, Gerald Wright
Itinerary - Ida Clayton Road, Frank Valley Road, Timber Hill, Bodega Bay, Sonoma Coast,
Willow Creek Road

Total of 141 species seen. (Herb McGrew saw a Screech Owl later for a total of 142).
Only the highlights are noted here: All 3 species of loons, Red-necked Grebe, Sooty Shearwater, 3 cormorants, both egrets, White-tailed Kite (seen at Carmel), Mountain Quail, Virginia Rail, Blay Oystercatcher, Scaupalmed Plover, Snowy Plover, Surfbird, Ruddy Turnstone, Spotted Sandpiper, Wandering Tattler, Pectoral Sandpiper (single bird at farm pond near Bodega), Northern Phalarope, Foster's Tern, Caspian Tern, Marbled Murrelet (23 individuals counted at Goat Rock), Vaux and White-throated Swifts, Pileated Woodpecker, 6 species of Flycatchers, 4 Swallows, (missed Tree Swallow), Canyon Wren and Rock Wren (both on Ida Clayton), California Thrasher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 8 species of warblers, Lark Sparrow, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Sage Sparrow (family group of 4 on Ida Clayton).

This does not represent the all time high for a single party in Sonoma County. Gordon, Jack Guggolz and I had 148 species in Late April three or four years ago.

NOTES:

Perhaps some of you might be interested in conducting Big Days with certain given limitation. Different months of the year and special locations could be used as criteria. For example, what can be noted within Santa Rosa City Limits in one day by one party? Kite Tales will be happy to present ideas anyone has, and to report results of any member's Big Days.

BREEDING SURVEY - NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

By Baron McLean

You may know that the Annual Christmas Bird Counts are sponsored by the National Audubon Society in collaboration with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Another project of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the Breeding Bird Survey. It is headed by Chandler Robbins, author of BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA, also Chief, Migratory Non-Game Bird Studies, Migratory Bird and Habitat Research Laboratory, Laurel, Maryland. Begun in 1966, it spread in 1968 to the western tier of states. Some of our local birders have been cooperating with it here since 1968. It is an attempt to cover on a scientifically "random" way all parts of the state in a roadside type of survey during the breeding season, to determine what birds are here during breeding season.

Now, in Northern California, 106 routes have been selected, mapped and assigned covering every block of one degree of latitude and longitude with four such random selected routes. The observer starts one half hour before sunrise. Only ten minutes leeway before or after this time is allowed for a fully counted route. The observer records for three minutes all he sees or hears, then moves exactly one half-mile to stop #2 for another three minute recording. There are just 50 such stops to a route. This takes about four hours and is designed to be finished while the birds are still singing. This is a rather disciplined

fore, taking sharp hearing as well as seeing ability. The observer can have the help of assistant(s) for driving, timing, recording. Maps of the route and instructions are received from Laurel, Maryland, and reports go back to the BBS there. Eventually printouts from the survey are compiled, and when collected from all over the USA and Canada provide data to determine a far more accurate record of our bird populations than any other method devised. It has its limitations because it is NOT a walking, or searching out process. It has its problems when roads prove not to be passable, etc. But, the total picture is very satisfying.

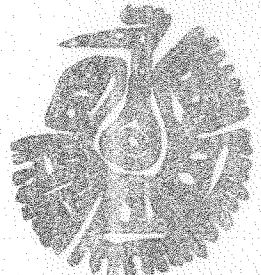
Local birders who have cooperated in this venture include Baron McLean, not himself a route observer but a coordinator of Northern California observers, Jack Guggola (Rt. 010 Colpella) and (007 Red Bluff), Dr. Benjamin D. Parmeter and Dr. John R. Arnold (Rt. 22 Bass Lake), Dr. David H. Hanson and later Arthur Grelapp (Rt. 081 Navarro), Joel Hornstein (Rt. 158 Sattley), Gordon Bolander (Rt. 160 Longvale-Covelo), Lynn and Elizabeth Stafford (Rt. 163 Redding and Rt. 175 Mt. Shasta), Oliver Kolkman (Rt. 167 Orleans and Rt. 179 Yolla Bolly), Mrs. Evelyn Bowen (Rt. 180 Laytonville), Dr. L. W. Grelapp (Rt. 186 Mark West), Mrs. Doyea Harper (Rt. 193 Bodoga Bay), Dr. E. Wayne Tilley and Glenn Clifton (Rt. 202 Glen Ellen).

Routes are classified in different Habitat Groups, such as #91 The Great Valley, #92 surrounding foothills, #66 Mountain, #93 Coastal including most of Coastal mountains, #88, 89 Basin, and similar lists can be expected within each area type. About 220 species are reported in California in the last two years.

BIRDING ABOUT SONOMA COUNTY.

Lynn Stafford

Salt Point State Park, protecting a secluded and beautiful portion of Sonoma County, is well worth the attention of nature-oriented folks. This rather new addition (1968) to the State Park system lies in the northwestern part of our county along Highway 1. It extends for four miles along rocky coastline and reaches back to the top of a 2000 foot wooded ridge to include 3000 plus acres.



Habitats range from rocky outer coast to marine terraced grasslands, Bishop Pine forests, dense Douglas and Grand Fir forests in fern-checked canyons, mixed broad-leaf evergreen woods on ridges, chaparral (both coastal soft and upland hard types) and upland prairies. Some highlights are two Brandt's Cormorant nesting colonies (easily observed and photographed), numerous Ospreys (this is a very important nesting area for this Blue-List species, I think), a rich intertidal zone, and the wouthernmost known 'pygmy' forest of the well-publicized Mendocino County type (including dwarf Redwood, Bishop Pine, and Pygmy Cypress).

The coastal part (west of Highway 1) is easily accessible by car and short foot paths, and includes shoreline, grassy terraces and Bishop Pine forests. The rugged uplands east of the highway are reached by several mountain trails and fire roads, and appear to be very rich in life. Both a campground and picnic areas are present, although no accommodations are available (Jenner is 16 miles south).

This park seems to be ripe for ERBS exploration. I know of only four observation lists: Dr. Arnold's and ours (both for the month of August), a student's list from a two-week study in May, and some records from the park rangers. Can anyone help us out? It would be good to compile a list of observations for Salt Point such as the Society is now doing for Sugarloaf and Anadel. Three-day trip yielded Grillenote and Murres (latter very vocal), an early Townsend's Warbler, many fishing Ospreys, and several Kites over the grasslands (reported by Rangers as common-surprising this far coastward). Also Vauxs Swift, Pygmy Nuthatch, Winter Wren were part of the rich forest avifauna.

(A map of the Salt Point State Park, reproduced from the Park brochure follows on next page):

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

Regular monthly meetings are held from October through May on the
second Thursday of the calendar month in Room 221 of the Charles
Darwin Hall of Science at California State College, Sonoma, Rohnert
Park. Meeting time is 8 P.M. Visitors are welcome.

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PARKING PERMIT

COURTESY OF

CALIFORNIA STATE COLLEGE, SONOMA

For use in NON-RESERVED SECTION, only

on Thursday, October 11, 1973

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

ROOM 221 - DARWIN

(Display clearly in driver's compartment of car)