

KITE

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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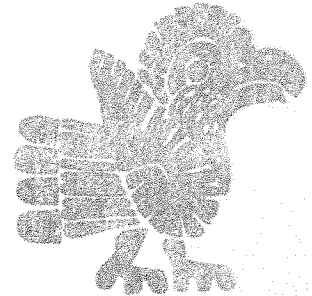
CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

November 3, Saturday: First film in Audubon Wildlife Film series, Walter H. Berlet's film, "West Side Story -- Mexico to Alaska."

November 8, Thursday: November meeting of RROS Elmer Aldrich will give the program on "Birds of East Africa."

November 16, Friday: Deadline for December Kite Tales

November 18, Sunday: RRO's field trip to Gray Lodge



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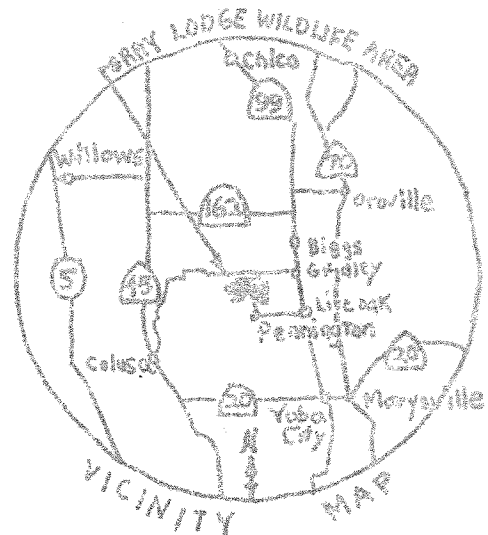
Field trip chairman Gordon Bolander will lead. Meet at the Refuge Check Point at 10:00 A.M. Gordy suggests two possible routes to Gray Lodge. The fastest way is to go North on Hiway 80 to Hiway 113, which cuts off near Davis. Take 113 to Hiway 99 and continue North on 99 to Live Oak. At Live Oak, turn left and follow signs to the Refuge. For a longer route with better birding, take the Clear Lake route to Williams. From Williams, continue East on Hiway 20 to Meridian. There, swing North around the Buttes and come into Pennington from the west. If you need a ride, call Gordon Bolander, 542-5216.

December 13, Thursday: December meeting of RROS

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Jenkins, who have done nature photography for over 25 years, will give a program of their slides. The emphasis will be on birds, and animals and flowers will also be included.

December 23, Sunday: RROS CHRISTMAS COUNT!! Save the date!!

Gordon Bolander and Mike Parneter have agreed to be co-compilers. More information will be forthcoming.



BOOK NOTES.....

Carmen Patterson has reviewed for the Kite Tales two books which she found especially exciting:

BORN TO SING: AN INTERPRETATION AND WORLD SURVEY OF BIRD SONG, by Charles Hartshorne, 1973.

Professor Hartshorne, a philosopher and leading authority on bird song, explores intriguing new theories about bird music. His analogy between human music "as an art" and bird song should interest professional as well as amateur ornithologists. He views birds as having humanlike "aesthetic feelings" along with the unique ability to learn and imitate musical patterns and proposes that birds are, by far, the closest animals (except whales) to auditory speech. He supports his thesis with statistical information and personal observation. Also of interest are the many charts containing detailed ratings of the quality, quantity, etc. of most of the higher songbirds.

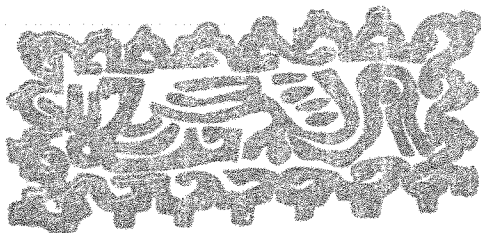


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KNOWING THE OUTDOORS IN THE DARK by Vinson Brown, 1972.

This book provides a wealth of aids to understanding nature's nightlife and identifying birds, insects, and animals in the dark by sound, activities, silhouette and smell. Included are tips on how to explore at night in safety and comfort, how to improve eyesight in the dark, sharpen the senses (even the little-known sixth sense) and how to get close to wildlife without being discovered. Some interesting learning projects are discussed, such as: calling owls, night-time animal census, wildlife sound maps, team contests of seeing and hearing ability. Written for all ages and for nature lovers in general.

REPORT ON THE BODEGA OFF-SHORE TRIP.....



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The Bodega Off-shore trip drew a beautiful day -- the first glorious sunny day after two weeks of heavy fog. Gordon Bolander reports fine sightings of Cassin's Auklets, Rhinoceros Auklets, Murres, Marbled Murrelets, one Red Phalarope, Parasitic and Pomerine Jaegers, one Tufted Puffin. He says there were excellent views of Shearwaters, Pink-footed being the most numerous.

Four hundred New Zealand Shearwaters, and possibly one or two Fleshfooted Shearwaters were also seen.

MEMBER SIGHTINGS.....

Mike Farneter has reported on the Eureka and Monterey Off-shore trips and on a sighting near his home:

"September 30-- Eureka Off-shore trip -- very rough waters -- nearly all persons became ill. Gordon, Wayne Tillay, John, and I drove up (and threw up) together. Birds of note were Black-footed Albatross, Sooty, Pink-footed and New Zealand Shearwaters, Black-legged Kittiwake, Sabine's Gull, Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets. We saw Franklin's Gulls at Arcata after the boat trip and a Peregrine Falcon also at Arcata.

"October 6-- Monterey Off-shore trip -- calm waters! We saw Arctic Loons, Sooty, Pink-footed and New Zealand Shearwaters, 1 fulmar, Ashy and Black Petrels, Elegant Terns, Thick-billed Murre (2 individuals), Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets. John and I were the only persons from RROS. After the boat trip we saw a Black-pollied Warbler near Crespi Pond.

The Black-billed Magpie which has wintered in our neighborhood the past 2 years has reappeared this fall. The origin of this bird is unknown, as is its summer presence. It's not hard to see; if anyone is interested speak to John or me."

Gordon Bolander reports a recent sighting of the Black-pollied Warbler at his home.



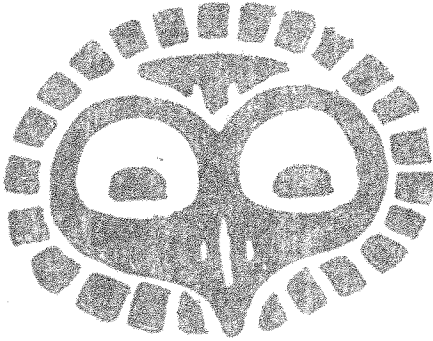
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ONE OUT-OF-ORDINARY-OWLING OUTING.....

During these days of shortages in America's resources, have you been concerned that perhaps our federal reserves of Screech Owls are dwindling, also? Fear not! In reality, we are crawling with the little 'heesters', if a recent experience in Annadel State Park is any indication.

On the moonless night of October 26-27 (10:00 pm - 4:00 am) I took an eight mile, six hour owling hike in the southern part of Annadel (500'-1400'). I started out using the descending "bouncing ball" Screech Owl call, and finally dredged up a pair after 1½ miles of silence. These birds went through a sizable repertoire, including an ascending whistle that is easy to imitate. Once I began using this whistle (like a high-pitched Gibbon, if that helps) Screech Owls were everywhere. Actually, I used four calls: the whistle, the bouncing ball, a rapid staccato, and a single note. But the whistle, by far, was the most productive. All in all, 26 Screech Owls were heard. Only one of these birds was calling spontaneously. Excluding double-backs, 5½ miles of road were covered. This works out to about one bird per ¼ mile. The entire trip was conducted within a one by three mile block.

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About 70% of the area covered is vegetated with Oak woodland (Garry, Coast Live, and Black) interspersed with meadows. This seems to be ideal Screech habitat. Most birds called up were above 800' in elevation. Four Great Horned Owls were heard. All four were below the main Annapolis "highlands" (below 800') and were calling spontaneously. In addition to owls, 2 skunks, many deer, 1 family of pigs, a barking fox, 3 southward flights of geese, and 3 planets were either heard or seen.

Since the highest Screech Owl tally on Christmas Counts in California is usually below 10, and since the above portion of Annapolis is but a small part of the total Screech Owl habitat in the Santa Rosa Count circle, it might not hurt to concentrate on this species.

-- Lynn Stafford

KITE TALES ILLUSTRATIONS

Designs in the Sept. and Oct. Kite Tales are from the book, Design Motifs of Ancient Mexico, by Jorge Enciso (Dover Publications, N.Y., 1953). The designs were taken from stamps, usually made of baked clay. Picture 1 is a 'road-manner' or 'shouting pheasant' from Mexico City; picture 2 is a hummingbird found in Yucatan; picture 3 is a duck design found in Mexico City, picture 4 is a heron motif found in Mexico; and picture 5 is an owl head found in Mexico City.

GRAY LODGE ARTICLE

The following paragraphs are excerpts from an article by John B. Cowan, manager of Gray Lodge. The article, entitled The Gray Lodge Wildlife Area, appeared in the May-June 1973 issue of Outdoor California magazine.

"The 7500 acres comprising the Gray Lodge Wildlife Area of the Department of Fish and Game form one of the most intensively developed waterfowl marshlands in the nation. Located in Butte and Sutter counties in the Sacramento Valley, Gray Lodge is about eight miles southwest of the town of Gridley and some two miles north of the valley's most prominent landmark-- the upthrust Sutter Buttes.

Historically, great numbers of waterfowl wintered throughout the Sacramento Valley where marshes and swamps were widely scattered. Natural aquatic food and living quarters were then no problem. Today, suitable living and feeding quarters for marshland wildlife are extremely limited. State and federal marshes such as Gray Lodge are a mainstay of existence for many of the state's wildlife species.

Pintail make up about 40 percent of the Gray Lodge duck population. Mallard and baldpate are generally next in numbers, followed by shoveler, green-winged teal and gadwall.

Of the geese, snows are most numerous. They often make up 70 percent of the Gray Lodge goose population. Next in importance, generally, are white fronts, cacklers, Ross geese, lesser Canada and Canada.

Ross geese apparently make the Gray Lodge area their main wintering quarters. These birds breed along the Perry River, which is within the Arctic Circle near Queen Maud Gulf, west of Hudson Bay. They migrate annually southwest into the Sacramento Valley. Though small in numbers, Ross geese can more often be observed at Gray Lodge than elsewhere during winter months. Because Ross geese have such restricted nesting and wintering territories, they have received added hunting protection. During the past 15 years their numbers have increased from an estimated 6,000 to more than 20,000.

In spring and summer the resident duck nesting population approximates 250 pair. About 65 percent are mallard, with gadwall and cinnamon teal each comprising about 15 percent. Other duck nesters are pintail, shoveler, redhead and ruddy. Geese do not nest on the area.

More than 200 different kinds of birds have been recorded at Gray Lodge and up to 60 species are known to nest. Other than waterfowl, the more common nesters include mourning dove, ring-neck pheasant, redwing blackbirds, avocet, blackneck stilt, coot, gallinule, pied-billed grebe, white-tailed kite, red-tail hawk, sparrow hawk, killdeer, burrowing owl, western kingbird, barn swallow, long-billed marsh wren, shrike, Brewer's blackbird and the western meadowlark.

Gray Lodge has become an important center in California for wildlife research. More than 10 years of intensive studies on the western mourning dove, for example, have been completed. From here the nation's first factual records on annual productivity of individual pairs were obtained. Wire cone nests developed here have proved most successful as a dove nesting aid, and are now becoming widely used throughout the nation.

Gray Lodge is one of the most important banding stations of the Pacific Flyway. Nearly 120,000 waterfowl have been banded since 1948, and more than 14,000 band returns have been received from these birds. All banding work is in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the federal agency responsible for compiling band returns.

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.

OFFICERS:

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

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PARKING PERMIT

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CALIFORNIA STATE COLLEGE, SONOMA

For use in NON-RESERVED SECTION, only

on Thursday, November 8, 1973

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
ROOM 221 - DARWIN

(Display clearly in driver's compartment of car)