

KITE TALES

SEPTEMBER

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
VOL. 9 - NO. 1 SANTA ROSA, CALIF.

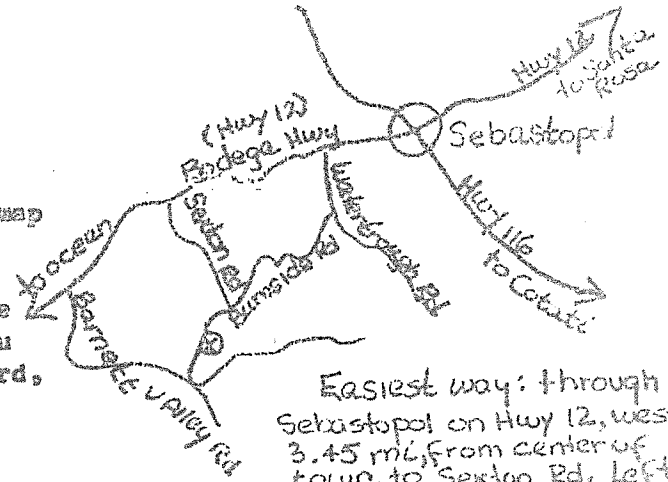
1974

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS.....

September 12, Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

Potluck dinner and first fall meeting.
The potluck will be held at the new home of Dave and Linda Hanes, 2789 Burnside Rd., Sebastopol. Follow the map to the right, and do come!

No need to RSVP. Bring a dish to serve 4, or bread, potato chips, etc. If you have questions, please call Lis Stafford, 833-6491.



Easiest way: through Sebastopol on Hwy 12, west 3.45 mi, from center of town, to Sexton Rd. Left on Sexton Rd to Burnside, right on Burnside .5 mi to red house on south side of road.

September 21, Saturday, 8:00 a.m.

RROS Field Trip to Point Reyes vicinity. Meet at 8 a.m. at Point Reyes Station. If you wish to carpool, a carpool will form in Petaluma at the park on the corner of D St., and Petaluma Blvd. South, at 7:30 a.m.

Depending on results of advanced scouting, a side trip to Mt. Vision on Inverness Ridge may be included. The shore and water-bird migration coupled with a wide variety of land habitat should produce excellent birding. Bring lunch and binoculars, and friends.

September 18, Wednesday: Deadline for contributions to the October Kite Tales. Please bring any ideas, comments or writings for the Kite Tales to the meeting, or mail or phone them to Linda Hanes (address on back page).

October 10, Thursday, 8:00 p.m.
October meeting of RROS.

October 20, Sunday

Off-shore field trip from Bodega.
This perennially popular trip has again been scheduled by Mike Parmeter. Cost is 12.50 per person, payable in advance to Mike. His address is 2500 Emerson St., Napa, CA 94558.
Don't delay: this trip usually sells out early.

STATISTICS ON BODEGA AND PELAGIC BIRDING.....

If anyone does not have the statistics on Bodega and pelagic birding that was published in the April 1974 Kite Tales, copies will be available at the September and October meetings, or write to Lynn and Liz Stafford, P.O. Box 361, Kenwood, Ca. 95452

CLASSES BEING OFFERED.....

Two classes of possible interest to our members are being offered this fall, one at the SRJC, the other at CSCS.

Plant communities of Sonoma County, conducted by John Tunison. California State College, Sonoma at Rohnert Park. Rm. 120, Darwin Hall, Saturdays 10-5 p.m., Sept. 14 - Nov. 16. (Biol. 397) Mr. Tunison is interested in all aspects of the plant community, so the course should interest birders, too.

Birds of California, conducted by Jon Winter. Santa Rosa Junior College. Rm. to be announced. Tuesdays, 7-10 p.m. (Biol. 720) An introductory course in field ornithology. Emphasis will be placed on field activities, with several local field trips.



MONK PARAKEET NEAR RUSSIAN RIVER.....

As you already may have read in the newspapers, Sonoma County Dept. of Agriculture personnel collected a D.O.R. specimen of this species on River Road near Korbey Winery recently. I subsequently discussed this with Mr. Violetti of the Agricultural Commissioner's office in Santa Rosa. According to Mr. Violetti, the bird was picked up in July, and sent to Sacramento for identification. No evidence of other birds or nesting was found, although nearby residents apparently had seen the bird while it was living.

The only other Sonoma County record known to Mr. Violetti was a sighting by a rancher on West Side Road about four miles east of the River Road location. The rancher observed the bird several times during late fall, 1973, in his orchard. He reported it to the Agricultural Commissioner's office, but attempts to find it were thwarted by rain and mud.

There have been several other sightings in California, such as Orange, Santa Barbara, and Fresno counties. Because of the significance of a possible invasion of this species, I am including the following description of the Monk Parakeet problem or possible problem from a Smithsonian Institute news release.

-- Lynn Stafford
(news release follows, next page)

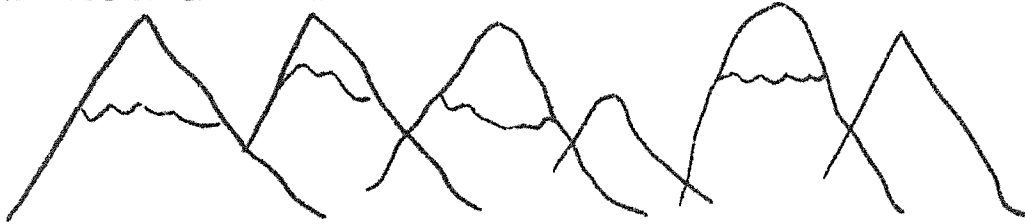
Monk Parakeet, continued.....

"The Monk Parakeet was once considered a harmless pet. Now, it has turned into a giant pest. Some 50,000 of the gray-feathered birds were imported from South America between 1968 and 1972. (In 1972 the U.S. officially closed its borders to the bird.) Many of the parakeets managed to escape from pet shops and home cages. They formed "Parrot colonies" along the U.S. East Coast.

Although a subtropical bird, the Monk Parakeet manages to survive winter temperatures. It finds warm nooks and crannies in urban centers, especially around New York City.

In their native habitat of Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Brazil, the birds feed on agricultural crops. They ruin thousands of dollars worth of grain and citrus fruits yearly. The birds are beginning to cause the same nuisance here. Bad sign: Argentine officials have tried, since 1947, to wipe out the monk parakeet-- with no success."

HAS ANYONE IN OUR CLUB SEEN A MONK PARAKEET IN THE COUNTY?



PROPOSED SNOW MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS IN TROUBLE.....

According to the August-September Bulletin of California Native Plant Society, Representative Don Clausen apparently is no longer supporting his own bill to establish a 37,000 acre Snow Mountain Wilderness area. As a member of the Subcommittee on Public Lands of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, and representative of the district in which the wilderness would fall, he is in a very sensitive position on this bill. There is widespread public support for it, including from the supervisors of the three counties involved: Glenn, Lake, and Colusa. Despite the virtual lack of salable timber within the boundaries and the settlement of the dispute involving the U.S. Forest Service and a timber contractor, special interests apparently have gotten to Mr. Clausen.

Snow Mountain is situated at the southern tip of the finger of Sierra Nevada habitat that extends south through the Coast Range. Such mountain birds as White-headed Woodpecker, Hammond's Flycatcher, Mountain Chickadee, Green-tailed Towhee, and Yolla Bolly Fox Sparrow occur here. The uniqueness of this coastal mountain region certainly warrants all protection possible. You may write to: Rep. Don Clausen, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

AND HOW WAS YOUR VACATION? MINE WAS FINE.....

I wonder if experts still experience the thrill I feel when they see a bird species new to them? I am a beginner, and there are still lots of species out there for me to discover. This summer on what was a fishing trip to Southwestern Montana for others in my group, I did a little birdwatching while others fished. Southwestern Montana is lovely country, with a variety of habitat, from high mountains to sagebrush. My thrill came in the beautiful Centennial Valley when, as we drove through the Red Rock Lakes Migratory Waterfowl Refuge, I saw my first Sandhill Cranes, strolling majestically through a grassy field and into a clump of pines. There were mature and immature birds. I heard the call I have listened to many times on the Audubon record of bird calls, and got close looks at the big birds. Although they occur in many areas of California, I had never been on field trips where they were seen.

We also saw Trumpeter Swans, swimming very close to the road. Another first for me. Other birds I saw on the trip were not uncommon. Some were: on the Sheephorn River, Spotted Sandpiper, many Belted Kingfishers, Violet-green, Bank and Rough-winged Swallows, Mountain Bluebirds, and Sage Sparrow. In other places we saw Dippers, Golden Eagles (though not many); Black-billed Magpie, Clark's Nutcracker, Blue Grouse, Gray Jay, Black-capped and Mountain Chickadees. We listened to the music of the coyotes howling just after dark and in the morning just after sunrise. They really do sound musical! We watched the stars, brilliant in that huge Montana sky, and watched the alpine glow on the mountains at sunset, as we ate fish for supper. It was a fine vacation!

I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HEARING ABOUT YOUR VACATION, TOO.

Did you find good birding territory new to you? Did you find new birds? Share your birdwatching with the rest of us. Obviously, from my notes above, you need not be an expert or see only "rare" birds.

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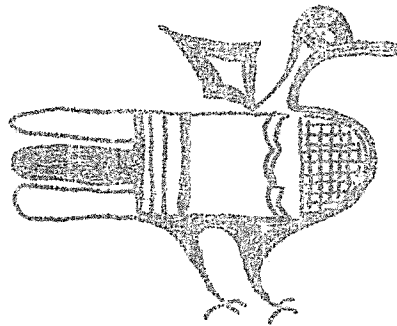
Organized in 1962, the purpose of the club is to encourage the study and conservation of birds, other wildlife, and their natural habitat. RROS is affiliated with the National Audubon Society, but RROS affiliation does not make individuals members of NAS.

Meetings are the second Thursday of each month, September through May, in Room 221 of Darwin Hall, California State College, Sonoma at Rohnert Park.

Membership dues are \$4.50 for a family; \$3 for individual, and \$1 for student memberships. The fee includes the subscription to Kite Tales.

OFFICERS:

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