

KITE TALES

OCTOBER

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
VOL. 9 - NO. 2 SANTA ROSA, CALIF.

1974

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS.....

October 10, Thursday, 8:00 p.m.: The Marquesas Islands.

For our regular October meeting member Clark Nattkompt has agreed to give a slide program based on his summer '74 visit to this out-of-the-way Polynesian group. The Marquesas, located 700 miles N.E. of Tahiti, remain quite apart from the fast-moving outside world. The culture reflects the original Polynesian migration from Samoa; in addition there has been a mixed overlap of European and Oriental influence since the 1700's. Clark's presentation will emphasize the islands, the people and the plants. He says the wildlife is limited, but he will include this subject, also. Clark shared his recent Galapagos Islands trip with us last spring; so, together with Peter Connors' program on birds of the Auckland Islands, we are being treated to an excellent study of oceanic island natural history.

October 12, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.: Migrating hawk field trip.

Two hilltops in Southern Marin County should offer a selection of hawks. If this isn't successful the trip will include general birding in Southern Marin County.

Meet at the freeway exit to Vista Point, just off the exit, on the north side of the Golden Gate Bridge. For those who wish to carpool, meet at 8:15 in the town square of Cotati, on the west side.

October 12, Saturday, 7:30 p.m. SRJC Audubon Wildlife Film.

The first wildlife film of the season will feature William Hall and his SMALL WORLD. Tickets are available at the door, Luther Burbank Theatre, on the SRJC campus.

October 18, Friday: Deadline for contributions to the November Kite Tales. Your contributions are most welcome. Send or phone them to Kite Tales Editor Linda Hanes, 823-9781; 2789 Burnside Rd., Sebastopol 95472.

October 20, Sunday: Off-shore trip from Bodega.

This trip is filled.

December 22, Sunday, dawn to dark: RROS annual Christmas Bird Count.

Save this date, and tell your friends. Details in future Kite Tales.

The POTLUCK.....

The September potluck was a grand success. Thanks for all the good food from those who attended! About 35 people were at the potluck. Absent and very much missed were Natalie Mestechin and Deyan Harper, among others.

welcome to new members who attended: Bruce Andre and Mary Kennelly of Petaluma; Betty Burrige, Robert Herr and Jon Winter of Santa Rosa; Gail Scott of Cotati, Martha Stiles of Glen Ellen.

RBCS MEMBERS BREAK RECORD FOR SINGLE DAY SIGHTINGS IN AUGUST.....

On August 24, 1974, Gordon Bolander, Mike and John Parmeter set out to break the American Birding Association record for numbers of species of birds seen in a single day in August. The previous record was 138 species. We saw 143 from 1:30 a.m. to about 7 p.m. The route taken was as follows: Timber Hill Rd - Coleman Valley Rd. - Duncan's Landing - Bodega Bay - Bodega (the town) - Bodega Head - Jenner - Armstrong Woods - Slusser Rd. and back to Timber Hill. Mike and John, sleeping outside, heard a Barn Owl, a Screech Owl, and a Chat at 1:30 a.m. We got up at 6:00 a.m. and birded Timber Hill. When we left there we had 66 species. when we were over Coleman Valley Road we had 87; when we were done at Duncan's Landing, 110. 135 when we were done at Bodega Bay, and we got to 138 at Jenner. Number 138 was a Common Merganser. Record breaking 139 was a Brown-headed Cowbird at Duncan's Mills. The best birds seen were Arctic Loon, Sooty Shearwater, Cooper's Hawk, Common Gallinule, all 3 phalaropes, Band-tailed Pigeon, Vaux's Swift, Pileated Woodpecker, Pygmy and Red-breasted Nuthatches, Tricolored Blackbird, and Marbled Murrelet.

On Sept. 2, Gordon, Mike and John saw a Baird's Sandpiper at Jenner; and Common Terns, Redhead, Sora, and Common Gallinule at Salmon Creek. Later, at Bodega Bay with Peter and Carolyn Connors we saw a Tennessee Warbler. It was a male in good plumage.

-- John Parmeter

INTERESTING YEAR FOR UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS.....

This seems to be a good fall for some rather unusual and rare birds in our area. Quite a lot of Baird's Sandpipers have been seen, and such things as Curlew Sandpiper, Ruff, various Eastern warblers. In a later issue of the Kite Tales we hope to compile some of these sightings, and we'd like you to share your unusual sightings with us. There are various theories as to why these birds turn up here (do they come down from the north?). We'll try to discuss some of these theories in a later issue. (Do you have a pet theory?)



REPORT ON SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP: POINT REYES EASTERN WARBLER MIGRATION.....

Thirteen members experienced overcast skies and some exciting birding on the Point Reyes peninsula Saturday, September 21. The highlights of the trip were the concentrations of warblers in the cypress 'islands'. At the RCA station two Blackpoll warblers, two American Redstarts, and a Black and white Warbler woke us up. On out at the Coast Guard Rescue Station, several more Blackpolls, and two Redstarts were studied along with Western and Willow Flycatchers. All in all (in spite of Gordon's failure to produce a Brown Towhee) it was an excellent day.

-- Lynn Stafford

The complete list of sightings:

Common Loon	Marbled Godwit	Long-billed Marsh Wren
Arctic Loon	Sanderling	American Robin
Red-necked Grebe	Northern Phalarope	western Bluebird
Western Grebe	Glaucous-winged Gull	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Pied-billed Grebe	Western Gull	Loggerhead Shrike
Brown Pelican	California Gull	Starling
Double-crested	Ring-billed Gull	Warbling Vireo
Cormorant	Heermann's Gull	Black and White Warbler
Brandt's Cormorant	Forster's Tern	Yellow Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Common Tern	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Great Egret	Elegant Tern	Blackpoll Warbler
Snowy Egret	Common Murre	Common Yellowthroat
Black-crowned	Band-tailed Pigeon	American Redstart
Night Heron	Vaux's Swift	House Sparrow
Mallard	Anna's Hummingbird	Western Meadowlark
Cinnamon Teal	Belted Kingfisher	Red-winged Blackbird
Canvasback	Common Flicker (r.s.)	Tricolored Blackbird
Lesser Scaup	Acorn Woodpecker	Brewer's Blackbird
White-winged Scoter	Hairy Woodpecker	Purple Finch
Surf Scoter	Downy Woodpecker	House Finch
Ruddy Duck	Black Phoebe	Pine Siskin
Turkey Vulture	Say's Phoebe	American Goldfinch
Cooper's Hawk	Willow Flycatcher	Lesser Goldfinch
Red-tailed Hawk	Western Flycatcher	Rufous-sided Towhee
Marsh Hawk	Horned Lark	Savannah Sparrow
Prairie Falcon	Barn Swallow	White-crowned Sparrow
Merlin	Steller's Jay	Song Sparrow
American Kestrel	Scrub Jay	
California Quail	Common Raven	
Virginia Rail	Common Crow	
Coot	Chestnut-backed	
Killdeer	Chickadee	
Black-bellied Plover	Plain Titmouse	
Whimbrel	Bushtit	
Willet	Brown Creeper	
Greater Yellowlegs	Wrentit	
Short-billed Dowitcher	Winter Wren	
Western Sandpiper	Bewick's Wren	

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

John Parmer sent along a crossword puzzle for your pleasure. The answers will be at the October meeting (what better incentive to attend!) We challenge you to complete the puzzle without opening your trusty bird book even once.

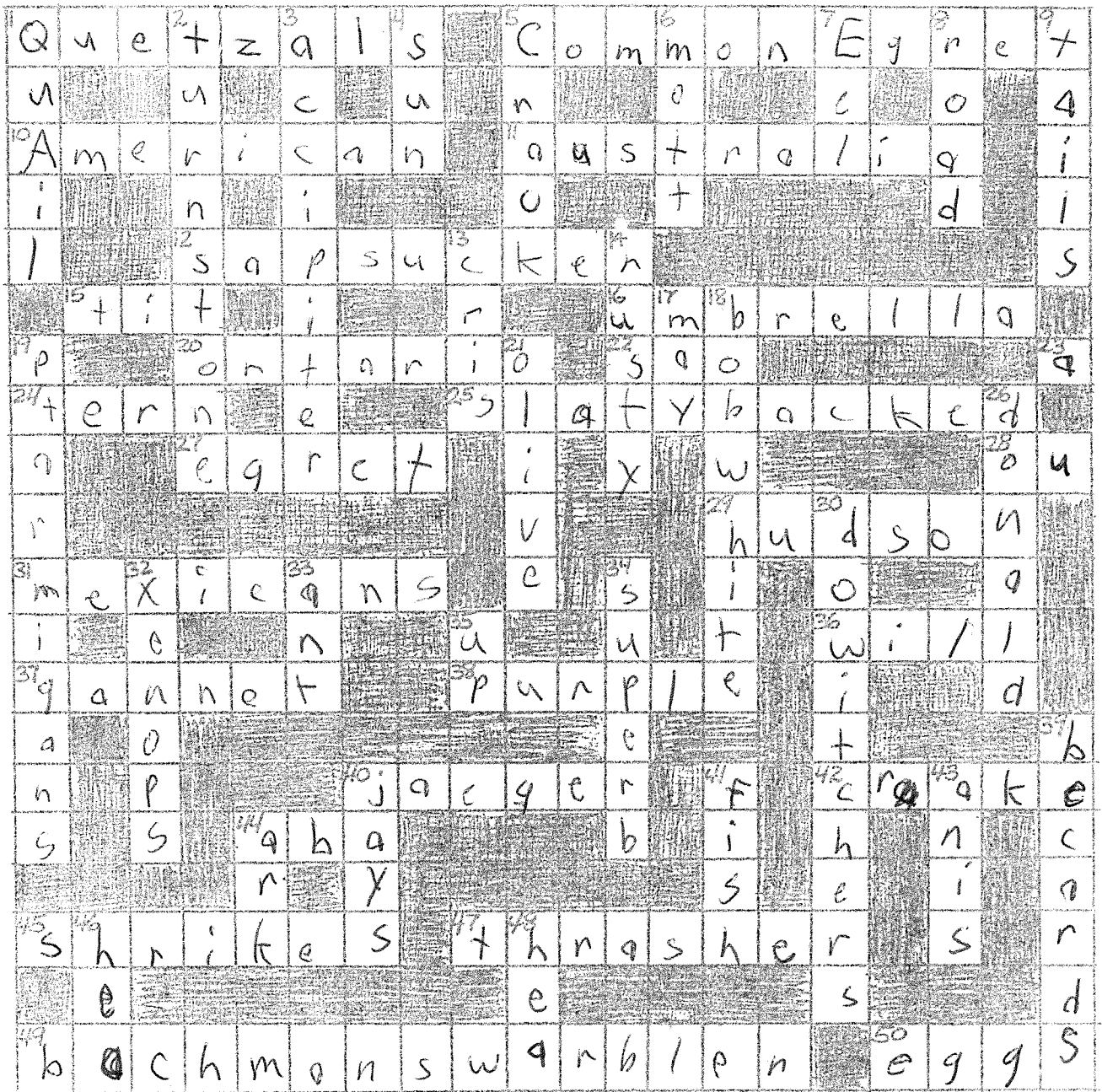
ACROSS

1. Large, green Trogons with very long tails.
5. Old name for Great Egret.
10. _____ Redstart.
11. Continent where 34 down is found.
12. Yellow-bellied or Williamsons.
15. Varied, Blue, or Great.
16. _____ bird (one word), very useful when rainy.
20. Canadian province with most species of birds.
23. _____ bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.
24. Black, Common, or Roseate. One good one deserves another.
25. _____ Gull, rarity in western Alaska.
27. Reddish, Snowy, or Cattle.
28. Species of Hawaiian Honeycreeper.
29. _____ Ian Godwit. Also a bay.
31. Besides all being birds; a duck, a chickadee, a herard, and a junco are all _____.
36. Whip-poor-_____.
37. A booby found in the N.E. United States.
38. _____ Sandpiper, closely related to the Rock Sandpiper.
40. Member of the genus Stercorarius.
42. Corn _____.
44. American Birding Association (abbrev.)
45. Ant _____ (one word, plural) Also loggerhead.
47. Bendires, Crissal, or Sage.
49. Outside of vagrant accidentals, rarest wood warbler in the United States (full name)
50. Birds lay _____.

DOWN

1. Gambel's, Mountain, or Scaled.
2. Sandpipers that flip rocks over.
3. A Goshawk is an _____. So is a Cooper's Hawk.
4. _____ bittern (one word), found in South America.
5. Clark's Nut-_____er.
6. _____-led Duck, found in S.E. United States.
7. Type of 41 down.
8. _____ runner (one word).
9. Tropicbirds have very long ones.
13. _____-sal Thrasher, found in S.W. United States.
14. _____ Blackbird, found in E. United States and Alaska.
17. Month in which record big day was set.
18. Only quail in E. United States.
19. Northern "Grouse". Genus Lagopus.
21. _____ Warbler, found in S.E. Arizona.
26. _____ Duck.
30. Long-billed and Short-billed.
32. Type of Ovenbird with upturned bill.
33. _____ shrikes (one word).
34. _____ Lyrebird.
35. Birds can fly straight, _____, or down.
39. Rose-throated or Mexican.
40. Green, Brown, Gray, and Blue.
41. Food of many water birds.
43. Groove-billed and Smooth-billed.
44. Noah took two of each kind of bird on his _____.
46. Red or white _____-ded woodpecker.
48. Same as 46 down.

Puzzle is on the next page



WE NEED YOUR MONEY.....

If you have not paid your dues yet this year, your money is surely welcome. Dues are \$4.50 for a family membership; \$3.00 for individual membership, and \$1 for students.

Part of the dues covers the cost of your Kite Tales subscription. If you do not wish to be a member of RRCS but wish to receive Kite Tales, we ask you to send \$2 to our treasurer to cover the cost of paper and mailing.

We do welcome and encourage guests at our meetings and on our field trips.

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