

KITE TALES

NOVEMBER

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
VOL. 9 - NO. 3 SANTA ROSA, CALIF.

1974

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS.....

November 9, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.: Audubon wildlife Film series.
The second wildlife film of the series will explore Florida's Cypress Sanctuary. Tickets are available at the door, Burbank Theatre, Santa Rosa Junior College.

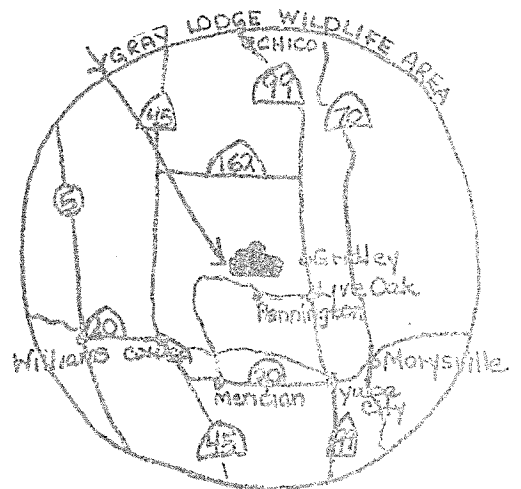
November 14, Thursday, 8:00 p.m.: November meeting of RROs.
Rm. 221, Darwin Hall, California State College, Sonoma campus.
The program will be a surprise.

November 17, Sunday, 10:00 a.m.: Field trip to Gray Lodge.
Meet at the refuge check station at 10:00 a.m. This trip always turns up interesting wintering waterfowl, such as whistling swans, sandhill cranes, white-fronted geese.

There are two recommended routes. The fastest is to go east on I 80 to Hiway 113, which cuts off near Davis. Take 113 to Hiway 99, continue north on 99 to Live Oak. At Live Oak, turn left and follow signs to the refuge.

For better birding but longer route take the Clear Lake route to Williams (through Callstoga). From Williams continue east on Hiway 20 to Meridian. There, swing north around the Sutter Buttes and come into Pennington from the west. The check station is on Pennington Rd. Allow 3 hours driving time.

If you need a ride, or have space for riders call Lynn Stafford, 833-6491.



November 20: Deadline for Kite Tales contributions. Send them to Linda Hanes, 2789 Burnside Rd., Sebastopol, Ca. 95472.

November 23, Saturday, 8:00 a.m.: Local field trip with Dr. Jack Arnold. Meet at the Lake Ralphine Boat Dock in Howarth Park, S.R., 8:00 a.m., rain or shine, for a leisurely half day walk. The emphasis will be on close study of local land and water birds. It should be good practice for the Christmas Count.

December 22, Sunday: RROs annual Christmas Bird Count.
Save this date. For assignments, contact Dr. Mike Parmeter, 2500 Emerson St., Napa CA. 94558.

REPORT OF THE HAWK TRIP TO MARIN COUNTY, OCTOBER 12.....

With fair weather, the trip to the Pt. Diablo Hawk Lookout didn't turn up all possible hawks, but a Broad-winged Hawk was seen. The trip included birding at Rodeo Lagoon and Battery Wallace. Following is a list of species seen.

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Grebe, Pied-billed | Willet | Thrush, Varied |
| Pelican, Brown | Yellowlegs, Greater | Thrush, Hermit |
| Cormorant, Double-crested | Dunlin | Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray |
| Egret, Great | Godwit, Marbled | Kinglet, Golden-crowned |
| Egret, Snowy | Sanderling | Kinglet, Ruby-crowned |
| Mallard | Gull, Western | Waxwing, Cedar |
| Pintail | Gull, Ring-billed | Starling |
| Teal, Green-winged | Gull, Heermann's | Vireo, Hutton's |
| Teal, Cinnamon | Tern, Forster's | Warbler, Yellow-rumped |
| Wigeon, American | Pigeon, Band-tailed | Warbler, Hermit |
| Duck, Ruddy | Vaux's Swift | Yellowthroat |
| Vulture, Turkey | Swift, White-throated | Meadowlark, Western |
| Kite, White-tailed | Hummingbird, Anna's | Blackbird, Brewer's |
| Hawk, Sharp-shinned | Flicker, Red-shafted (common) | Finch, Purple |
| Hawk, Cooper's | Woodpecker, Downy | Finch, House |
| Hawk, Red-tailed | Phoebe, Black | Siskin, Pine |
| Hawk, Red-shouldered | Phoebe, Say's | Goldfinch, American |
| Hawk, Broad-winged | Swallow, Violet-green | Goldfinch, Lesser |
| Hawk, Marsh | Swallow, Rough-winged | Towhee, Rufous-sided |
| Kestrel, American | Jay, Scrub | Junco, Oregon (Dk eyed) |
| Quail, California | Raven, Common | Sparrow, White-crowned |
| Rail, Virginia | Chickadee, Chestnut-backed | Sparrow, Fox |
| Gallinule, Common | Wren-tit | Sparrow, Song |
| Coot | Wren, Bewick's | Kingfisher, Belted |
| Killdeer | Wren, Long-billed Marsh | |

A COMMENT ON SUISUN MARSH.....

In Sept. Gov. Reagan signed SB 1981, formalizing the Suisun Marsh Preservation Act. This act guarantees the integrity of the largest single remaining marsh in the nation. Suisun Marsh fronts on Suisun Bay in Solano County, and comprises 84,000 acres of natural and managed wetlands. The act sets up a timetable for local, regional and state agencies to prepare a marsh protection plan. All developments either inconsistent with legislative findings or not conforming to zoning ordinances will be barred until Jan. 1, 1978, within the marsh and buffer and special study zones.

The act requires the Wildlife Conservation Board to acquire, and the Dept. of Fish and Game to administer, those lands within or adjacent to the buffer zone that the board finds require prompt acquisition because of their critical importance. SB 1981 provided \$4, 190,000 for funding, but the governor blue-penciled out all but \$190,000 to cover the studies. However another act budgets almost \$28 million for acquisition of specified lands, including \$2 million for land acquisition in the Suisun Marsh with matching funds to be provided by the Wildlife Conservation Board.

Large numbers of people now use the marsh for education, observation, and photographic purposes, as well as for hunting. The value of the marsh for its open space and aesthetic and educational values may, in time, become its greatest significance to man, with the possible exception of its value as one of the "ecological kidneys" of the S.F. Bay air and water systems.

ON BIRDING IN SOUTH CAROLINA.....

You might like to share the following letter which came to the Staffords from Tim Barnhart, on his adventures with birding in South Carolina. Tim, an RROC member, is spending this year in Italy, studying the Montessori method of elementary education. Hopefully he will share birding experiences in Europe with us later.

"Here, in Europe, it has been harder to come into contact with the local avian residents, perhaps because I have been predominantly in cities, and too, because, at least here in Italy where a very famous dish is corn meal with little birds on top, there are few birds to be seen. But let me begin my adventures at the beginning.

"I was fortunate enough to be able to stay on some very lovely private land in South Carolina, after I left California at a leisurely pace for my year in Europe. It consisted of many acres of virgin pine forest, next to the sea, with several fresh water lakes on the property. The humid August weather and the lush vegetation gave me the impression of a tropical forest, especially where near the water liana like vines curved away up the trunks of the tall pines, sycamores, and elms. Being August, the birds were somewhat quiet, but the sounds were new nonetheless, and I recall lying in bed trying to make some connections between these new calls and notes, and what I was familiar with. I soon came to see that the area had its local residents, many of them playing the parts others played at my home. For instance, the "chink" of the vibrantly colored and invariably present Cardinals soon came to mean to me much the same as the friendly note of the neighborhood Brown Towhee I had grown up with in California. Similarly did the loud scolding triplets of the Carolina Wren remind me of the active calls of our Bewicks. One morning I heard the chatter of the Carolina Wren, and found him, or her more likely, investigating some fascinating cut-off jeans that were on the line. This investigation was repeated on several mornings, I recall, and I wonder if the breeding impulse was still strong at that late date. Perhaps it was just curiosity.

"I had to make special efforts to identify a lovely fluting call I heard one morning, reminding me of some charming cuckoo. It turned out to be the remarkable Bluejay, showing that he too has the wide repertoire common to the crested jays. I did manage to see a Yellow-billed Cuckoo slipping away far back in the understory, and with some luck one morning as I wandered along a shady sand road with the mosquito, half-walking, half slapping, I ran into a noisy group of warblers and chickadees, making their way through the brush. I made some new friends in the Black and White Warbler (who I soon found occupied a similar niche in the oaks here as did the familiar Black-throated Gray at home), in the Worm-eating Warbler, the Pine Warbler, and the Yellow-throated Warbler. There were also many of the Carolina Chickadees, and the Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher held forth against the insects in great numbers among the scrub brush. Later, the Summer Tanager made its appearance, and one day near the lake I was rewarded with a glimpse of the brilliant yellow of the Prothonotary Warbler. A most familiar denizen of the woods was the Pileated Woodpecker, and his loud and ringing call could be often heard. The red-bellied Woodpecker and the Southern Downy Woodpecker were commonly heard making their rounds of the dead wood.

continued

Continuing Tim Barnhart's letter.....

"One day I travelled down the coast to Charleston, where we visited a family who had a lovely home situated at the end of James Island. Walking out the back door, one is rewarded with the immediate proximity of salt marsh stretching to the horizon. A few feet more and most probably one would stir up a Green Heron or two, as I did, from the tidal channel next to the back yard. A leisurely scanning of the marsh revealed Little Blue Herons, Great and Snowy Egrets, Terns, more Green Herons, and at last, the great lumbering shape of a Wood Ibis, heading out no doubt to a choice spot for lunch. While driving homewards from this lovely birder's paradise, we passed through birder famous McClellanville, but I have to say that I did not see wither Bachman's Warbler, or the Ivory-billed Woodpecker while I was there, though just maybe that Hooded Warbler I later saw was really a Bachman's. One last pleasure was given me while I was on the East Coast, for each evening I could look up to see the Nighthawks wheeling after their fare. So ended my birding experiences in the East, a few more notches on my binoculars, and a greater enjoyment of the beauty with which nature has bedecked herself."

REPORT OF THE OFFSHORE FIELD TRIP, OCTOBER 20.....

Despite heavy seas which required cutting short of the off-shore trip, several good birds were seen. After coming in, the group did some birding about the lagoon. Following is a list with approximate numbers of the pelagic birds.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Loon, Common | Scoter, Surf |
| Loon, Arctic (many) | Duck, Ruddy |
| Loon, Red-throated (few) | Merganser, Red-breasted |
| Grebe, Red-necked (1) | Rail, Virginia |
| Grebe, Horned | Sora |
| Grebe, Eared | Coot |
| Grebe, Western | Killdeer |
| Grebe, Pied-billed | Willet |
| Shearwater, Pinkfooted (75) | Sandpiper, western |
| Shearwater, New Zealand (125) | Godwit, Marbled |
| Shearwater, Sooty (50) | Sanderling |
| Pelican, Brown | Phalarope, Northern |
| Cormorant, Double-crested | Jaeger, Pomarine (5) |
| Cormorant, Brandt's | Jaeger, Parasitic (1) |
| Cormorant, Pelagic | Gull, Glaucous-winged |
| Heron, Great Blue | Gull, Western |
| Egret, Snowy | Gull, Herring |
| Heron, Black-crowned Night | Gull, California |
| Pintail | Gull, Ring-billed |
| Wigeon, American | Gull, Mew |
| Scaup (sp?) | Gull, Bonaparte's |
| Scoter, White-winged | Murre, Common (many) |
| | Guillemot, Pigeon (3) |

CSCS PARKING PERMIT

THURSDAY, NOV. 14

Use in non-reserved sections

For the convenience of members & guests of
REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Meeting in Rm 221 - Darwin Hall
(DISPLAY CLEARLY IN DRIVERS SECTION)

CODE
720 S

OFFICERS:

- PRESIDENT Lynn Stafford, P.O. Box 361, Kenwood, Ca., 95452 833-6491
VICE PRES Wayne Tillay, 160 Cold Springs Rd., Angwin, Ca. 94508 965-2978
SECRETARY John Parmeter, 2500 Emerson St., Napa, Ca., 94558 255-6757
TREASURER Carson Petterson, 5577 Inverness, Santa Rosa, Ca. 95404 544-7031
KITE TALES EDITOR Linda Hanes, 2789 Burnside Rd., Sebastopol, Ca 95472 823-9781