

KITE TALES

APRIL

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
VOL. 9 - NO. 8 SANTA ROSA, CAL.

1975

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS.....

APRIL 10, Thursday, 8:00 p.m.: A program on nesting osprey.

Allen Buckmann of the California Dept. of Fish and Game will speak and show slides on nesting osprey, for our regular April RROS meeting. He can bring us up to date on timber conservation as it relates to the osprey. Be sure to come and bring questions and friends.

Election of officers for 1975-76 will also occur at this meeting. The nominating committee, Deyea Harper, Gordon Bolander, and Bruce Andre, will present a slate, and nominations will be accepted from the floor. Meetings are held in Rm. 221, Darwin Hall, CSCS campus.

APRIL 12, Saturday, 8:00 a.m.: Field trip to Annadel and Sugarloaf Parks.

Spring land birds will be the objectives of this RROS field trip. There should be plenty of opportunity for studying songs of local nesting species. Meet at the Black Forest Inn parking lot, corner of Highway 12 and Calistoga Roads, Northeast Santa Rosa, at 8:00 a.m., or the Sugarloaf Day Parking area at 8:30 a.m. Bring lunch if you wish.

May 4, Sunday: Offshore field trip from Bodega.

For further information about this ever popular ocean bird trip, contact Mike Parmeter, 2500 Emerson St., Napa, Ca. 94556. Ph: 255-6757.

Notice is herewith given that this is the last issue of the Kite Tales we will be sending to those friends and associates whose dues are not currently paid up, other than exchanges with a few other Audubon Society groups. We just can't afford to send gratis copies any longer.

Notice is also given herewith that the following is presented as a proposal to be voted upon at the April meeting, by members present at that meeting:

"Dues will be raised from \$1 to \$2.50 for students; \$3 to 4.50 for single memberships; \$4.50 to \$6 for family memberships, and from \$2 to \$3.50 for Kite Tales mailing list only" (this category is for those distant friends who feel they cannot give further support)

TEAR OFF AND MAIL TO TREASURER CARMEN PATTERSON

YES, I WOULD LIKE TO PAY MY DUES FOR 1973-76 1974-75 (circle one or two of these)

ENCLOSED IS \$ _____.

NAME

ADDRESS

current member?

FURTHER POINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY COURSES.....

PRBO, a nonprofit research, conservation and educational institution since 1965, offers courses at the lowest possible price to arouse interest in the natural world. For more detailed information concerning any of the following courses, contact Meryl Stewart, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 442, Bolinas, Ca. 94924. This is a continuation of last month's list.

July 13-18: East of the Sierra. Equal emphasis on the geology, botany, and birds of the high east side of central California from the White Mountains to Tioga Pass. Participants must be willing to camp in unimproved campgrounds and be in shape to hike from 1-5 miles at elevations around 10,000 feet. Bob Stewart, Virgil Prizzell. \$80.

July 26-31: Stanislaus River - Flow of Life. A natural history transect from the central valley up the west slope of the Sierra to the east side including a back packing trip in the high country. Designed to let you feel the land with a very minimum of car travel. Optional all day raft trip on the Stanislaus River. John Kipping and Bob Stewart. \$80.

November 21-29: Birds of San Blas Mexico. This is a field course for people with some experience as bird watchers. San Blas on the coast of western Mexico is a virtual birding paradise. Here over 225 species winter in an area dominated by mangrove and jungle. Three 5-hour boat trips will provide close looks at many Mexican species. This is a real learning experience. Even good birders will improve their seeing and listening skills after a week with leaders Bill Clow and Art Earle. Cost does not include lodging and dinner meals. \$250 from Mazatlan.

December 5-12: Birds of Durango Highway, Mexico. This is a field excursion in Mexico for bird watchers with some experience who are capable of walking up to 8 miles daily. The Durango Highway east of Mazatlan provides access to two unique avifaunas: the highland species of the Mexican Sierra and the lowland species of the coast. Cost does not include lodging or dinner meals. Bill Clow, Art Earle. \$200.

TWO MORE ITEMS OF BUSINESS FOR YOU TO THINK ABOUT.....

We hope there will be time at the April meeting to discuss two issues, in addition to the other business of the meeting.

First, how do you feel about beginning meetings at 7:30 rather than 8:00 p.m.? Many people feel that this would be a good idea, allowing more time for bird sightings and socializing at the end of the meetings.

Second, the field trips have not been well attended this year, for the most part. There are lots of reasons, to be sure. Cost of gasoline, time, desire to observe new territories rather than the "same old ones", and so on. What do you think should be the aim, direction, appeal, of RROS field trips?

DORAN BEACH ROAD SHORE BIRD STUDY.....

Gail Scott is a senior at CNSC doing an independent study project on shorebirds in the Doran Beach Road area. This is the fourth part of her study report:

A sunny day is as much appreciated by the birds of Bodega Bay as by you or me. On the whole, March has been a cold and wet month. Although birds are present and working hard to find food on stormy days large numbers are often hard to locate. However, a sun warmed day will seemingly bring the birds out of no where and the entire landscape will be covered by their long-legged forms.

As yet I have seen no drastic color change in the plumages of the shore birds. Although most sandpipers and plover species migrate north for the spring breeding season I hope to see some color change before they leave. The last time I observed an American Avocet, at my study area, its head and neck were beginning to take on the pinkish-tan coloration. The male Cinnamon Teals and most of the male Ruddy Ducks are now in their full breeding plumage. The male Cinnamon Teals are now a beautiful deep reddish-brown color that is hard to miss. The Common Loons and Horned Grebes are still residing at Bodega Bay and neither have their breeding plumage.

The numbers and species of shore birds have not changed much since last month. The birds' attitudes, however, have become more irritable and aggressive. Although the sandpipers and plovers remain in fairly large flocks, bickering is quite evident at feeding and resting areas. It seems even more evident in the smaller shore birds such as Sanderlings, Killdeer, and Snowy Plovers. As I got out of my car, on one occasion, three Killdeer flew overhead and one dove at me, landed, and proceeded to scold me. When I walked away it did not follow. Upon returning to my car the Killdeer repeated its aggressive actions. I looked around for a nest but found nothing, although I could easily have overlooked it. According to Arthur Cleveland Bent (1929) Killdeer eggs have been found in California as early as March 15. When I attempted to locate a nest the birds made no protest. No further "attacks" have been made since that particular day.

My favorite shore bird, the Snowy Plover, can still be seen sitting quietly on Doran Beach in flocks that number up to the 50's. Before the end of February, I was able to approach the Snowy Plovers within 5-10 feet and watch them without binoculars. Now, whenever I see them on the beach I must approach cautiously and not closer than about 30 feet so they will not fly away. Their favorite resting site seems to be sitting behind a small mound of sand-covered seaweed. Each bird occupies one sand mound but the flock sits fairly close together. I have seen them resting side by side in previous months; however, lately when one approaches another too closely it will be fiercely driven off.

Now that spring is officially here plumage changes will be seen not only on some shore birds but on terrestrial birds as well. With all of the new colors worn by some of the birds plus the added effect of the recent blooming wild flowers, Doran Beach Road has become quite a beautiful landscape.

(The bird list is on the following page)

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DORAN BEACH ROAD BIRD LIST, with approximate numbers seen per day

Order Charadriiformes

Family Scolopacidae

Dunlin	100-600
Western Sandpiper	100-300
Least Sandpiper	10-20
Sanderling	50-100
Willet	2-10
Marbled Godwit	10-200
Dowitcher	1-5
Whimbrel	1 on 3/19/75

Family Charadriidae

Black-bellied Plover	2-20
Killdeer	2-10
Snowy Plover	1-50
Semipalmated Plover	1-2
Black Turnstone	2-10

Family Laridae

Ring-billed Gull	10-100
Western Gull	1-10
Mew Gull	10-100
Glaucous-winged Gull	1-10
Forster's Tern	2-6

Order Gaviformes

Common Loon

Order Podicipediformes

Western Grebe
Horned Grebe

Order Ciconiiformes

Great Blue Heron
Snowy Egret

Order Gruiformes

American Coot

Order Anseriformes

Pintail	10-20
Cinnamon Teal	25-30
Buddy Duck	20-50
Bufflehead	20-30
Surf Scoter	many
Red-breasted Merganser	1

Order Falconiformes

Family Accipitridae
Marsh Hawk 1

Family Cathartidae

Turkey Vulture 1-3

HAVE FUN WITH THIS GAME FROM MIKE AND JOHN FARMETER.....

Many birds have strange names. Out of the following list of names mark those which you believe are actual bird names and those which you think are fictitious. (authority: A Coded List of Birds of the World, by Ernest Edwards). Perhaps the answers will be at the April meeting?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Obscure berrypecker | 12. Sabre-beaked Head Basher |
| 2. Glowing Puffleg | 13. Pipipi |
| 3. Golden-bellied Star-frontlet | 14. Mrs. Moreau's Warbler |
| 4. Hyacinth Visorbearer | 15. Variable Pitchui |
| 5. Conechingones Cinclodes | 16. Black-browed Brubru |
| 6. Megalionic Flightless Steamerduck | 17. Bornean Fire-breasted Flowerpecker |
| 7. Fire-tailed Myzornis | 18. Fernando Po Speivops |
| 8. Cutia | 19. Carbonated Sierra-Finch |
| 9. Ajax Scrub-Robin | 20. Peter's Twin-spot |
| 10. Yellow-throated Leaf-love | 21. Aldabra Teikirity |
| 11. South African Rock-jumper | |

FIELD LIST OF SPECIES FROM THE FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP TO THORNTON.....

Grebe, Pied-billed	Killdeer	Pipit, Water
Heron, Great Blue	Snipe, Common	Shrike, Loggerhead
Egret, Great	Yellowlegs, Greater	Warbler, Audubon's (Yellow-rump,
Bittern, American	Avocet, American	Sparrow, House that is)
Goose, White-fronted	Gull, Herring	Meadowlark, Western
Mallard	Gull, California	Blackbird, Red-winged
Pintail	Gull, Ring-billed	Blackbird, Brewer's
Teal, Green-winged	Dove, Rock	Finch, House
Teal, Cinnamon	Dove, Mourning	Goldfinch, American
Shoveler, Northern	Kingfisher, Belted	Goldfinch, Lesser
Canvasback	Flicker, Common (RS)	Towhee, Rufous-sided
Duck, Ruddy	Phoebe, Black	Sparrow, Savannah
Vulture, Turkey	Swallow, Tree	Junco, Dark-eyed (Oregon)
Kite, White-tailed	Jay, Scrub	Sparrow, White-crowned
Hawk, Sharp-shinned	Crow, Common	Sparrow, Golden-crowned
Hawk, Red-tailed	Bushtit	Sparrow, Song
Hawk, Marsh	Nuthatch, White-breasted	
Kestrel	Wren, Bewick's	Starling
Quail, California	Wren, Long-billed Marsh	
Pheasant, Ring-necked	Mockingbird	
Crane, Sandhill	Thresher, California	
Gallinule, Common	Robin, American	
Coot, American	Thrush, Hermit	

FIELD LIST OF SPECIES FROM THE MARCH FIELD TRIP TO LAKE HENNESSEY.....

Only three hardy souls appeared for the Lake Hennessey trip: Mike and John Parmeter, and John Williams. The weather was overcast and cold. A highlight of the trip was the pygmy owl calling for about 15 minutes near the east end of the lake.

Loon, Common	Hummingbird, Anna's	Thrush, Hermit
Grebe, Western	Kingfisher, Belted	Bluebird, Western
Grebe, Pied-billed	Flicker, Common (RS)	Kinglet, Ruby-crowned
Cormorant, Double-crested	Woodpecker, Acorn	Vireo, Hutton's
Heron, Great Blue	Woodpecker, Nuttall's	Warbler, Orange-crowned
Mallard	Phoebe, Black	Warbler, Yellow-rumped
Duck, Ring-necked	Swallow, Violet-green	(Audubon's)
Duck, Ruddy	Swallow, Tree	Meadowlark, Western
Merganser, Common	Swallow, Rough-winged	Blackbird, Red-winged
Vulture, Turkey	Jay, Steller's	Blackbird, Brewer's
Hawk, Red-tailed	Jay, Scrub	Finch, Purple
Hawk, Red-shouldered	Crow, Common	Finch, House
Kestrel	Titmouse, Plain	Goldfinch, Lesser
Coot, American	Bushtit	Towhee, Rufous-sided
Killdeer	Nuthatch, White-breasted	Towhee, Brown
Gull, California	Wrentit	Sparrow, Rufous-crowned
Owl, Pygmy	Robin, American	Junco, Oregon
		Sparrow, White-crowned
		Sparrow, Golden-crowned
		Sparrow, Song

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, organized in 1962
to encourage the study and conservation of
birds, other wildlife, and their natural
habitat.

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CSCS PARKING PERMIT
THURSDAY, APRIL 10

USE in non-reserved sections

For the convenience of members & guests
of Redwood Region Ornithological Society
Meeting in Room 221, Darwin Hall

(Display clearly in driver's section)

