

KITE TALES

APRIL

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Vol. 12 - No. 8 SANTA ROSA, CALIF.

1978

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

April 13, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.: RROS meeting

It's favorite slide night! Remember to bring your slides, but be sure to edit them carefully and limit them to 10-20 per person. With the photographers and birders in our group, we ought to have a great program!

April 16, Sunday, 8:00 a.m.: Field Trip to Hopland Field Station

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Field Station Headquarters. Head north on 101 to Hopland and stop for directions at the first open gas station at the south end of Hopland, where the turn off is to the east. Leader Ollie Kolkmann anticipates many spring migrants as well as a few surprises in this varied habitat that includes chaparral, pasture and fields, and riparian stream-sides.

April 26, Wednesday: Deadline for KITE TALES contributions

May 7, Sunday, 7:00 a.m.: Pelagic Trip to Cordell Banks

Although the boat leaves from the Tides Wharf at 7:00 a.m., you must be there by 6:30. The "Finback" will take us to the Cordell Banks, the edge of the continental shelf where marine wildlife concentrates. Make reservations by sending your check for \$18.00, immediately, to Adeene Nelligan (See address on last page). Take lots of water-proof, warm clothing, your own hot coffee, lunch and seasick pills. Mike Parmeter will lead this boating outing from Bodega Bay.

MARCH FIELD TRIP REPORT

Sage Grouse and Other Birds!

On the week-end of March 10-12, 1978, a goodly number of RROS members went to the Susanville-Honey Lake-Janesville area to watch Sage Grouse perform their courting dance. Early Saturday morning after a pre-dawn serenade by coyotes, we were treated to the sight of 8 males "strutting" and "booming" as they went through their traditional courting ritual. Among them were to

be seen some immature males and females--a total of about 15 in the clearing or "lek" in the sage brush. On the next morning at least 9 males were performing but the cold wind made the sounds very difficult to hear. On this morning, Sunday, we were treated to the sight of 24 pronghorns (Antelope) watching us as we watched the grouse. (Two beautiful creatures--both with large areas of white!)

Among the chilled observers (said to be 27 degrees F. on Sunday) that followed our leader, "Mike" Parmeter, this week-end, were John Parmeter, Kathy and Jerry Mugele, Jim Matzinger, Rich Bertoli, John McConnell, Jack Arnold, Betty Burrige, Clarence and Eleanor Tucker, Lorraine Lelourn, Deyea Harper, Drs. Benechs, Adeene Nelligan.

Records kept by Wheatear, Rook, and Bald Eagle (aided by the Red-faced Warbler) produced a list of some 75 species. The asterisk* indicates species seen only on the west side of the Sierra Nevada, otherwise the species were seen in the Susanville-Honey Lake-Janesville area.

Great Blue Heron*	American Kestrel
Black-crowned Night Heron	SAGE GROUSE (wunderbar)
Whistling Swan	California Quail*
Canada Goose (at least two sizes)	Ring-necked Pheasant
Snow Goose	Sandhill Crane (many seen)
Ross' Goose	American Coot
Mallard	Killdeer
Gadwall	Common Snipe
Pintail (most abundant)	Ring-billed Gull
Green-winged Teal	(California Gull - not verified)
Cinnamon Teal	Band-tailed Pigeon
American Wigeon	Rock Dove
Canvasback	Mourning Dove*
Greater Scaup	Great Horned Owl (on nest)
Common Goldeneye	Short-eared Owl
Bufflehead	White-throated Swift*
Ruddy Duck	Belted Kingfisher
Common Merganser	Acorn Woodpecker
Turkey Vulture*	Lewis Woodpecker
White-tailed Kite	Downy Woodpecker
Sharp-shinned Hawk	White-headed Woodpecker
Cooper's Hawk	Horned Lark
Red-tailed Hawk (incl. nest)	Violet-green Swallow*
Rough-legged Hawk (several)	Tree Swallow
Ferruginous Hawk*	Cliff Swallow*
Golden Eagle (immatures and adults)	Steller's Jay
Bald Eagle (" " ")	Scrub Jay
Marsh Hawk	Black-billed Magpie
Prairie Falcon (at least two seen-- one rescued)	Yellow-billed Magpie*
	Common Raven

Common Crow
Mountain Chickadee
Bewick's Wren
Long-billed Marsh Wren
Mockingbird*
American Robin
Western Bluebird
Water Pipit
Northern Shrike (several)
Loggerhead Shrike*
Starling

House Sparrow
Western Meadowlark
Yellow-headed Blackbird (noted by
C. Tucker)
Red-winged Blackbird
Brewer's Blackbird
Pine Siskin
American Goldfinch
Rufous-winged Towhee
Tree Sparrow (some doubt of identi-
fication)
White-crowned Sparrow
Golden-crowned Sparrow

OBSERVATIONS

A male Oldsquaw in winter plumage was seen off Bodega Head on March 19. An adult male peregrine falcon was observed for 1/2 hour alternately resting quietly amidst unconcerned shorebirds and making passes at an osprey quietly eating its prey on March 19 in western Sonoma County.

Natural History Courses and Conferences

Wildlife lectures and films will be presented each Sunday afternoon in April at 3:00 p.m. at National Audubon's Whittell Center, 376 Greenwood Beach Road, Tiburon:

2nd - Wildlife of Tikal. Audubon Warden Lyman Fancher takes us to Guatemala where, over the past few years, he has been filming the fascinating wildlife of this area. . . toucans, parrots. . . ancient temples.

9th - Journey to Antarctica. Noted ornithologist and RNOs member Jon Winter will show us slides from his recent trip to Antarctica. Marine mammals and birds, most notably penguins. . . Tierra del Fuego and the Falkland Islands.

16th - Puerto Rico, Habitats and Wildlife. Biologist Bruce Sorrie, of Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory, spent two years in the Caribbean as a photographer and naturalist after his graduation from Cornell. His superb slides show the endangered Puerto Rican parrot, the yellow-shouldered blackbird and the Elfin Wood Warbler, among other colorful inhabitants.

23rd - Galapagos Islands. Naturalist Steve Bobzein, recently returned from a year's research in the Galapagos Islands, will present his slides on the wildlife of this remarkable island group -

frigate birds, the flightless cormorant, and several forms of life unique to the Galapagos.

30th - Islands in the Desert. Naturalist-photographer Frank Bayer will show the fantastic variety of wildlife in Arizona's Chiricahua and Huachuca mountain ranges . . . blue-throated hummingbirds, red-faced warblers and elegant trogons, among others.

REGRETS

I'm sorry to say we are selling our house and parcel and moving into Santa Rosa. Due to night and week-end commitments in town, it has become much more convenient to live in Santa Rosa than Forestville. I know a number of you have enjoyed seeing the Redstart and Hooded Warbler and other birds on our property. After the end of April, please ask the new owners if they mind your birdwatching there. So . . . come next winter, the Redstart may come back to stay, but unfortunately the Perry's won't!

Les and Melanie Perry

. . . . Redwood Region Ornithological Society

Organized in 1962, the purpose of the club is to encourage the study and conservation of birds, other wildlife and their habitats.

Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month, Oct. through May, at 7:30 p.m. in Room 221 of Darwin Hall, Sonoma State College, Rohnert Park.

Membership dues, payable in May, are \$6.00 for a family, \$4.50 for an individual, and \$2.00 for a student. This includes the subscriptions to the KITE TALES. Dues may be mailed to Adeene Nelligan at the address below, or present to her at the meetings.

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

OFFICERS:

- PRESIDENT Terry Babineaux, 2277 Crane Canyon Road, SR 95405 (544-7775)
- VICE-PRES & Gerald Mugele, 444 Patton St., Sonoma, 95476 (938-2134)
- PROGRAM CHAIRMAN
- SECRETARY Marian Dolgireff, 235 Doyle Park Dr., SR 95405 (545-3784)
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- FIELD TRIP
- CHAIRWOMAN: Betty Burrige, 963 Crest Drive, SR 95405 (527-0225)
- SOCIAL
- CHAIRWOMAN: Ruth Hawksley, 51 Shadyleaf Ct., SR 95405 (539-0560)