

Kite Tales

MAY

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Vol. 12, No. 9 Sonoma County, Cal.

1978

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

May 11, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. : RROS General Meeting

Lynn Stafford, RROS member and owling enthusiast, will present an "Owling Workshop", with notes on owl identification, distribution and behavior.....also, a discussion of owling techniques.

May 14 - 20, Sunday through Saturday: Sonoma County Breeding Bird

Survey. This will be a one week survey of all birds in Sonoma County with emphasis on finding evidence of breeding. Those participating will choose the areas and time they spend in each area. A special need exists to find breeding evidence for those species which should be so noted on the county list, but have thus far eluded detection. Volunteers will also be sought to search the more remote areas of the county. In addition, we will be counting all species during the week, even though their breeding status may be uncertain. On Saturday, May 20th, we will have a compilation and potluck at Spring Lake probably. Details will be determined at the may meeting. For more information call Doug Ellis (833-4344) or come to the meeting.

June 17 - 18: Field Trip to Yosemite

Those interested in a weekend trip to Yosemite in June please contact Doug Ellis (833-4344). This is an opportunity to look for the Great Gray Owl and other Sierran birds. During the following week, Doug will be going to Mammoth and Mono Lakes. Anyone wishing to come along will be welcome.

September 14, Thursday, 6:30 p.m.: RROS General Meeting

Save this date for our Third annual Potluck at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park. Details in the September KITE TALES.

September 30, Saturday: Field Trip

This date has tentatively been set for a field trip to "Hawk Lookout" at the Marin Headlands to watch for migrants. More details in the September KITE TALES.

April Field Trip Reports

The Field trip to Hopland Field Station on April 16th was lead by Ollie Kolkmann. Twelve members braved rain, hail, and SNOW to list 58 species. "...we outlasted the sheepmen. There were several that were conducting sheepdog trials and they gave up and went home. We are a hardy bunch. Not a bad list for such weather."

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|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Pied-billed Grebe | Wrentit |
| Mallard | House Wren |
| Ring-necked Duck | American Robin |
| Turkey Vulture | Western Bluebird |
| Red-tailed Hawk | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher |
| Golden Eagle | Ruby-crowned Kinglet |
| California Quail | Starling |
| American Coot | Hutton's Vireo |
| Killdeer | Warbling Vireo |
| Mourning Dove | Orange-crowned Warbler |
| Pygmy Owl | Yellow-rumped Warbler |
| Anna's Hummingbird | House Sparrow |
| Common Flicker | Western Meadowlark |
| Pileated Woodpecker | Red-winged Blackbird |
| Acorn Woodpecker | Northern Oriole |
| Western Kingbird | Brewer's Blackbird |
| Black Phoebe | Brown-headed Cowbird |
| Western Flycatcher | Black-headed Grosbeak |
| Violet-green Swallow | Purple Finch |
| Tree Swallow | House Finch |
| Stellar's Jay | Lesser Goldfinch |
| Rough-winged Swallow | Rufous-sided Towhee |
| Scrub Jay | Brown Towhee |
| Common Raven | Lark Sparrow |
| Plain Titmouse | Sage Sparrow |
| Common Bushtit | Dark-eyed Junco |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | Chipping Sparrow |
| Brown Creeper | White-crowned Sparrow |
| | Golden-crowned Sparrow |

Wayne Tillay led the trip to Ida Clayton Road Sunday April 30th. The meager turnout of RROS members (6), was bolstered by the 12-15 people that Wayne lured from St. Helena. A list of 65 species was possible in spite of the rain and cold wind. Highlights were the Sage Sparrows, Lazuli Buntings and a Pygmy Owl that came down in response to Gerry Mugele's call and looked us right in the eye. Also heard from were Mountain Quail, Pileated Woodpeckers and Doug Ellis.

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| Turkey Vulture | Anna's Hummingbird |
| Red-tailed Hawk | Allen's Hummingbird |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | Common Flicker |
| Golden Eagle | Pileated Woodpecker |
| Sparrow Hawk | Acorn Woodpecker |
| California Quail | Nuttall's Woodpecker |
| Mountain Quail | Ash-throated Flycatcher |
| Mourning Dove | Black Phoebe |
| Pygmy Owl | |

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|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Western Flycatcher | Orange-crowned Warbler |
| Western Wood Peewee | Black-throated Gray Warbler |
| Olive-sided Flycatcher | Townsend's Warbler |
| Tree Swallow | Hermit Warbler |
| Barn Swallow | MacGillivray's Warbler |
| Stellar's Jay | Wilson's Warbler |
| Scrub Jay | Western Meadowlark |
| Common Raven | Red-winged Blackbird |
| Common Crow | Northern Oriole |
| Chestnut-backed Chickadee | Brewer's Blackbird |
| Plain Titmouse | Western Tanager |
| Common Bushtit | Black-headed Grosbeak |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | Lazuli Bunting |
| Brown Creeper | Purple Finch |
| Wrentit | House Finch |
| Bewick's Wren | Lesser Goldfinch |
| California Thrasher | Rufous-sided Towhee |
| American Robin | Brown Towhee |
| Hermit Thrush | Lark Sparrow |
| Western Bluebird | Sage Sparrow |
| Starling | Dark-eyed Junco |
| Hutton's Vireo | Chipping Sparrow |
| Solitary Vireo | Golden-crowned Sparrow |
| Warbling Vireo | Song Sparrow |

April Meeting

The "do-it-yourself" slide show was a great success! An outstanding selection of slides was presented. We are fortunate in having such a talented group of photographers in our midst. We're looking forward to next time.

New Officers were elected. A unanimous vote placed the entire slate into office. They are:

Gerry Mugele - President
Bob McLean - Vice President
Betty Burridge - Secretary
Ruth Hawksley - Treasurer

Thank you to the nominating committee (Ruth Hawksley, Joanie Coover, and Bob McLean) for a job well done.

And a special thank you to the out-going officers for a wonderful year -- Terry Babineaux, Gerry Mugele, Marian Doligereff, and Adeene Nelligan.

Observations

Our sighting of the month award must go to John and Mike Parmeter for the Phainopepla on Los Alamos Road!

Where were the ducks? John and Mike tallied 173/174 species on their Sonoma County "big day" on April 29th, but they had some difficulty finding the ducks! Hopefully we'll get all the details at the May meeting.

Observations (continued)

Green Herons have successfully nested in a Sonoma yard for the ninth consecutive year. This is in a normal residential area and rumor has it the adults sometimes lead the fledglings to a nearby swimming pool. This year the pair produced three young.

Most of the spring birds seem to have set up house-keeping and are now busy feeding the incessantly hungry mouths. And they do this just so we'll have something to watch next year. Speaking of which...when you see something worthy of note please send it to me (or call) so we can tell everybody about it.

938-2134

or

Kathy Mugele
PO Box 790
Sonoma, Ca. 95476

Kismet

We're Sorry to report that the female Prairie Falcon spotted by RROS members near Honey Lake did not make it. As reported last month, the injured bird was rescued by a young man named Dane Profitt from Buzzard Acres, the local recovery station at Standish California. The bird was x-rayed by a local veterinarian and found to have a broken bone near the right wing attachment points. At that time, the problem appeared to be simply a matter of immobilizing the injured wing. Complications caused her death one week later. Autopsy results are not yet available, but apparently her death was associated with a bone marrow infection. What a pity to lose such a magnificent predator.

In any case the efforts of Buzzard Acres are to be applauded. They are currently working to establish permanent facilities in Susanville for repair and rehabilitation of feathered critters. If you are interested, can offer help, financial aid, whatever; you can contact the principals as follows:

Dane Profitt
PO box 948
Standish, Ca 96128

Betty & Greg Libecap
or po Box 214
Susanville, ca 96130

(916) 253-3607

Breeding Birds in Sonoma County

In addition to Doug's MAY SURVEY, it might be nice if everyone kept a written record of any actively breeding birds that they notice in the county. Apparently the present list is incomplete. Include information such as species, exact location, date, and nature of activity (nest building, breeding, teading young, etc).

MONEY

Dues are now payable! See Ruth Hawksley at the May meeting or mail your check now to:

Ruth Hawksley
51 Shadyleaf Ct.
Santa Rosa, Ca 95405

Remember

The May meeting is our last until Fall. Come and learn something about owls, latest sightings, and find out just what those people were doing in the desert last month.



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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, September thru 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 individuals, and \$2.00 for students. This includes a subscription to the Kite Tales. Dues may be mailed to Ruth Hawksley or Presented to her at meetings.