

Kite Tales

MARCH

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Vol. 13, No. 6 Sonoma County

1978

COMING ATTRACTIONS

March 8, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. RROS General Meeting

"Arizona Birding Experiences"--Two of our favorite and most capable birders, Drs. John Arnold and Mike Parmeter, will present a slide show of Arizona birds. Since the year is almost over, a nominating committee will be selected at this meeting. If you are interested in participating, please attend.

March 17 and 18, Saturday and Sunday, Field trip to Honey Lake and Environs

This was the biggy last year; RROS took over the metropolis of Litchfield for the weekend and disturbed both the residents until all hours. We had a good bird or two as well. This year, leader Gerry Mugele, is promising Sage Grouse, falcons, longspur, Sandhill Cranes, Northern Shrikes, and with luck, a Harris' Sparrow and/or Tree Sparrow. Plan ahead; Honey Lake is a six hour drive from our area. If possible, plan on driving up Friday night so you can join us at dawn at the Sage Grouse lek. Limited accomodations are available a the Seven Acres Motel in Litchfield (916-254-6711). Motels are also available in Susanville, which is only 20 miles away. Those arriving Saturday morning can join us at the motel coffee shop in Litchfield at 9:30, or later in the morning at the Fleming Unit at Honey Lake. The Sunday schedule will be much the same. (For further info, call Gerry Mugele at 938-2134).

April 12, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. RROS General Meeting

Election of next year's officers will take place at this meeting. Plan to attend!

May 5, Saturday, Boat trip to the Cordelle Banks

There will be a tentative sign-up at the March meeting. Please write or call Doug Ellis if you are interested in this boat trip. He will need to know how many people are interested, so that he can make the arrangements.

Birds of Sonoma County

Sucessful sales continue...Mail orders can be made to Dr. John Arnold, 199 Calistoga Rd, Santa Rosa, Ca. 95404. Enclose a check made out to RROS for \$4.74 (\$4.00 + .24 tax + .50 handling.)

DUES ARE DUE SOON

Membership includes a subscription to the Kite Tales. Dues may be mailed to Ruth Hawksley, 51 Shadyleaf Ct, Santa Rosa, or presented to her at meetings. To make it easy, use the form below.

.....
Enclosed are RROS dues (1979/1980) for: Family(\$6.00) Individual(\$4.50) Student(\$2.00)

Name

Mailing Address

Phone

City

Zip

California Nongame Wildlife Conservation Program

Donors to the CNWCP receive a decal in recognition of their help to non-game wildlife. Money received in this manner will be used this year to assist in the funding of a Peregrine Falcon captive breeding and manipulation project. Donations can be sent to: Wildlife, Box DFG, Sacramento, Ca 95814. All money donated in this way is tax deductible. (From the "Outdoor Californian", an interesting publication of the Dept. of Fish and Game.)

F I E L D T R I P S U R V E Y

The participation in RROS field trips this year has been surprisingly poor. In order that future field trips might be more appealing to you, our members, we ask that you let us know what your interests are, what has prevented or discouraged your attendance, and what we can do to improve things for you. You can do this by completing the questionnaire below and bringing it to the next meeting or sending it to Doug Ellis (his address is elsewhere in this issue). Thanks for your help.

.....

Do you prefer a two-day trip, such as the Monterey outing in September? _____
Would you like more of this type of trip? _____

We currently have one field trip per month September thru May...is this too often? _____ about right? _____ not enough? _____ What would be ideal? _____

Have the trips involve excessive travel? _____

Should we have more trips closer to home? _____

Do you prefer visiting the familiar local birding spots? _____ or places where rarities are more likely to be found? _____

Are there places that would interest you that we've missed? _____ (Please list)

Do you have any suggestions to improve field trips? Or any complaints?

.....

OBSERVATIONS by John Parmeter

In February, some of our earliest migrants returned. Violet-green Swallows were first noted on January 31 at Spring Lake (RH, HC), Cliff Swallows near Meridian, Sutter County 2-24 (LCB), and a single Barn Swallow at the small pond on Ramal Road (Schelleville) 2-23 (KVV). Tree Swallows are now common in our area. The first reported Allen's Hummingbird was at Bodega Bay 2-7 (DE) and a Rufous Hummer was in Monterey 2-18 (LCB).

The Monterey Bay pelagic trip on 2-18 produced a few Short-tailed and Manx Shearwaters, 2 Xantu's Murrelets, and a Sabine's Gull (WFO). That weekend, Monterey also played host to 2 Harlequin Ducks (KVV), and a Yellow Warbler (LCB), while nearby Moss Landing had a Laughing Gull (LCB) and another Harlequin.

An unusual concentration of 200+ Redheads was noted along Blackpoint Cutoff,

Solano County 2-4 (PL). A Rough-legged Hawk was at the same location that day (BDP). Two Ferruginous Hawks were also present near the Napa Airport on that date (JP).

At least one Rock Sandpiper remained on Bodega Head until 2-24 (JP). A Prairie Falcon was noted over Willow Creek Road the same day (LCB). A White-throated Sparrow was seen in Sonoma on 2-18 (G&KM).

On 2-24, a big day team of Laurence C. Binford, Kent Van Vuren, Mike and John Parmeter set a national February Big Day record of 175 species (old record 155). The route taken went from Willow Creek Road to Graylodge State Refuge via Bodega Bay, Lake Hennessey, Monticello Dam and Lake Solano. This route could well produce a Big Day of 180+, as we did little pre-scouting and missed several very easy species.

During March and April, please send early arrival dates for regular summer species. It will be most interesting to see how our dates compare with Gordon Bolander's in the Birds of Sonoma County.

Observers: L.C. Binford, Hal Corey, Doug Ellis, Ruth Hawksley, Phil Lenna, Gerry and Kathy Mugele, B.D. Parmeter, John Parmeter, Kent Van Vuren, WFO.

.....

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 through May, at 7:30 p.m. in room 221 of Darwin Hall, Sonoma State College, Rohnert Park.

.....

OFFICERS

- President Gerald Mugele P.O. Box 790 Sonoma, Ca 938-2134
- Vice-President Bob McLean 20715 5th St East Sonoma 938-5012
- Secretary Betty Burridge 963 Crest Dr Santa Rosa 527-0225
- Treasurer Ruth Hawksley 51 Shadyleaf Ct Santa Rosa 539-0560
- Kite Tales Editor Kathy Mugele P.O. Box 790 Sonoma 938-2134
- Field Trips Doug Ellis P.O. Box 155 Eldridge 833-4344
- Social Chairperson Eleanor Tucker 1309 Denlyn St Novato 415-892-2193
- Observations John Parmeter 2500 Emerson St Napa 255-6757