

# Kite Tales

APRIL

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
Vol. 13, No. 7

1978

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

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

First order of business will be the election of new officers. The nominating committee has prepared an interesting group for your approval. Nominations will also be taken from the floor...come one and all and vote! Steve Abbors, a naturalist at Tilden Park in the East Bay, will give a presentation on Turkey Vultures. His presentation stems from his master's thesis on the subject.

### April 29, Sunday, 7:30 a.m. Annadel State Park Transect (Field Trip)

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Stonehedge Dr. and Westminster Place (off of Summerfield Road) to bird at that end of the park, then car shuttle to the end of Channel Drive, where we will meet any late comers at 8 a.m. We will spread out at the park entrance (Channel Drive) and cover as much of the park as possible. Contact Doug Ellis with any questions (833-4344).

### May 10, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. RROS General Meeting

Bruce Sorrie, a Research Associate of PRBO, will give a slide presentation on Peru. The emphasis will be on birds, but will include mammals, insects, orchids and the ruins of Machu Picchu.

### June 2, Saturday, Boat Trip to Cordelle Banks

There will be a new sign-up sheet at the April meeting. This is the earliest date that a boat will be available. The cost will be \$18.00 per person. Write or call Doug Ellis if you are interested in this trip.

## Something To Think About

"American Birdwatchers have turned out to be often the worst enemies of the very species that is the focus of their enthusiasm. The great growth of these amateur ornithologists and their zealousness has been destructive to both birds and habitats.

"A few items of corroborative evidence: a Great Gray Owl attracted droves of Massachusetts watchers who trampled a farmer's seedlings and knocked down his fences to catch a glimpse. He was about to shoot the bird to get rid of the intruders, but it escaped. In Arizona, enthusiasts trying to get photo close-ups of some rare hawks drove the shy birds from one of the few habitats hospitable to them.

"As a result of this kind of thing, the Audubon Society in the Northeast has stopped providing the exact locations of uncommon birds sighted in the New York area--information that used to be included in its recorded phone alert. That old song about hurting the one you love was clearly right on the mark." S.F. Chronicle

## March Field Trip Results

RROS members had a great weekend of birding March 17&18th. The Honey Lake

expedition was not as advertised but we had good birds nonetheless. The Longspur and Harris' Sparrow were not around and a lot of looking didn't make 'em appear, and we didn't see antelope this year. BUT--we started both days at the Sage Grouse lek watching the displays in pre-dawn light. We also managed to find Sage Thrashers and Sage Sparrows. Some of the other biggies were five Bald Eagles, 4 Golden Eagles, Northern Shrikes, Sandhill Cranes, Williamson Sapsucker, Pinon Jay, Clark's Nutcracker and Townsend's Solitaire.

Horned Grebe	Ring-necked Pheasant	Pygmy Nuthatch
Eared Grebe	Sandhill Crane	Brown Creeper
Western Grebe	American Coot	Dipper
Pied-billed Grebe	Killdeer	Bewick's Wren
Double-crested Cormorant	Ring-billed Gull	Long-billed Marsh Wren
Great Blue Heron	Rock Dove	Mockingbird
Great Egret	Mourning Dove	Sage Thrasher
American Bittern	Barn Owl	American Robin
Canada Goose	Short-eared Owl	Western Bluebird
Snow Goose	Anna's Hummingbird	Mountain Bluebird
Mallard	Belted Kingfisher	Townsend's Solitaire
Gadwall	Common Flicker	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Pintail	Acorn Woodpecker	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Green-winged Teal	Lewis Woodpecker	Cedar Waxwing
Cinnamon Teal	Williamson's Sapsucker	Northern Shrike
American Wigeon	Hairy Woodpecker	Loggerhead Shrike
Northern Shoveler	Nuttall's Woodpecker	Starling
Redhead	White-headed Woodpeckers	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Ring-necked Duck	Black Phoebe	Common Yellowthroat
Canvasback	Horned Lark	House Sparrow
Greater Scaup	Violet-green Swallow	Western Meadowlark
Lesser Scaup	Tree Swallow	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Common Goldeneye	Rough-winged Swallow	Red-winged Blackbird
Bufflehead	Cliff Swallow	Tricolored Blackbird
Ruddy Duck	Stellar's Jay	Brewer's Blackbird
Common Merganser	Scrub Jay	Cassin's Finch
Turkey Vulture	Black-billed Magpie	House Finch
Cooper's Hawk	Yellow-billed Magpie	American Goldfinch
Red-tailed Hawk	Common Raven	Rufous-sided Towhee
Rough-legged Hawk	Common Crow	Savannah Sparrow
Golden Eagle	Pinon Jay	Lark Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Clark's Nutcracker	Sage Sparrow
Marsh Hawk	Mountain Chickadee	Dark-eyed Junco
Prairie Falcon	Chesnut-backed Chickadee	White-crowned Sparrow
American Kestrel	White-breasted Nuthatch	Fox Sparrow
Sage Grouse	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Lincoln's Sparrow
California Quail		Song Sparrow

#### OBSERVATIONS by John Parmeter

The Sonoma County birding highlight of March was the male Costa's Hummingbird discovered at the home of Clarence and Elaine Wolcott in Healdsburg on 3-20. The bird has been present ever since and has been readily observed by many. This is the first county record for the species.

A few more migrants have returned to our area. The first Rough-winged Swallow was near Middletown 3-3 (BDP), and the first Yellow Warbler on Willow Creek Road 3-20 (DE). Warbling Vireos and Wilson's Warblers have returned to Marin County.

A Great Blue Heron rookery of 20 nests at Lake Hennessey is of interest (RH). A Prairie Falcon was also seen at the lake on 3-20 (RH). A Prairie Falcon, Merlin, and Vesper Sparrow were seen in Butts Canyon, Lake County 3-3 (BDP, JP, JA, PL). A Black-throated Gray Warbler near Cobb on the same day was a very rare winterer (BDP). A few Phainopepla are currently in the Clear Lake area (JM).

A Black-headed Gull and a Little Gull are now present at some sewer ponds near Stockton (KVV, DE, mob). At least one Sharp-tailed Sparrow is still at Bolinas Lagoon (RH, DE), and 5 Hooded Mergansers are still at the pond at 5 Brooks Stables. For more specific directions on the above species, contact the Rare Bird Alert.

A Spotted Owl nest discovered in western Sonoma County (DE) is the first positive breeding record for the county.

Observers: Jack Arnold, Doug Ellis, Ruth Hawksley, Phil Lenna, Jim Matzinger, B.D. Parmeter, John Parmeter, Kent Van Vuren.

CONGRATULATIONS!

John Parmeter will enter UC Berkeley this fall. Thank you, John, for a super job on the observations this year! We're expecting the longest "campus list" ever at Cal!

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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 are due in May: Family (\$6.00), Individual (\$4.50) Student (\$2.00) Membership includes a subscription to the Kite Tales. Dues may be mailed to Ruth Hawksley or presented to her at meetings.  
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OFFICERS

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