

Kite Tales

MARCH

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Vol. 14, No. 7 Sonoma County

1980

COMING ATTRACTIONS

March 13, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. RROS General Meeting

Mike Parmeter will present a program on "Birds of Korea". Plans will be discussed for an offshore trip in May.

March 16, Sunday, 8:30 a.m. Field Trip to Hood Mountain

Meet leader Gerry Mugele at the parking lot of Hood Mt. Park at the end of Los Alamos Road. Bring a lunch, coats, hats and pray it doesn't rain!

March 22-23, Saturday and Sunday, Field Trip to Honey Lake

This is becoming an annual trip for RROS. A Sage Grouse lek, falcons, longspur, Sandhill Cranes and Northern Shrikes are just a few of the promised treats. Plan ahead--Honey Lake is a six hour drive from our area. If possible, plan on driving up on Friday night, so you can join us at dawn at the Sage Grouse lek. Limited accommodations are available at the Seven Acres Motel in Litchfield (916-254-6711). Motels are also available in Susanville, which is only 20 miles away. Meet at the motel coffee shop in Litchfield at 5:30^{a.m.} on Saturday. Sage Grouse are early risers! Late comers will find us at the Fleming Unit at Honey Lake about 9:30. (For hardy souls, there are camping facilities available here). The Sunday schedule will be much the same, with a possible run up to Eagle Lake. Call Gerry Mugele for more information (938-2134).

FIELD TRIP RESULTS

Seven braved the elements for the trip to Annadel. Very wet, they retired (retreated) to Betty's house to sit in front of the fire and enjoy some good bird talk. Chickadees, Juncos, Robins, Goldeneyes and Wood Ducks were the highlights of the day.

NATURE TOURS WEST

NTW is a new organization of local naturalists headed by RROS member David LaFollette. Their spring brochure offers: North Coast of California (March 15-19), Death Valley (March 31-April 6 or April 13), California Condor (April 19-27) and Transect of California (May 17-23). Tour leaders include Doug Ellis, Jesse Longacre and Terry Colborn. For details write Nature Tours West, 9410 Chalk Hill Road, Healdsburg, Ca 95448 (707-838-9425).

POINT REYES FIELD SEMINARS

Sponsored by the park service at Pt Reyes National Seashore, their brochure includes: Owls of the Pt Reyes Peninsula, March 1 or 2, Bob Stewart; Spring Bird Migration, April 19-20, Ron LeValley; Nesting Birds, May 10-11 or May 31-June 1, Jules Evans. For information, write: Point Reyes Field Seminars, Point Reyes, Ca 94956.

PEREGRINES

Sandy Boyce presented an excellent program on falcons at the last meeting. For those interested in doing more for Peregrines than just watching, contact The Peregrine Fund, Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850.

OBSERVATIONS by Mike Parmeter

Several outstanding birds were seen by RROs members in the past month. Unfortunately, a few of the best sightings were in conjunction with the WFO convention in Santa Barbara and not readily available to all members.

An Arctic loon at the Stockton Deep Water Channel on Jan. 29 is a good inland sighting (Doug Ellis). A Yellow-billed Loon has been seen at the Richmond Yacht Harbour recently (Dan Nelson Feb 21). A Green Heron was present at Bodega Harbor on Feb 10 (DN). Three Cattle Egrets were seen at the end of Hall Road on Feb 3 (Wayne Tillay). A single American Bittern was found along Tolay Creek near Sears Point on Feb 11 (DE). Single European Wigeons were noted on Feb 2 at the SF Zoo (DN) and on Feb 3 at the Spaletta Ranch (WT). A flock of 1000+ Canvasbacks was on San Pablo Bay off Hamilton Air Base on Feb 12 (DE). (It's good to have Doug censusing this area.) All three species of Scoters were at the Fish Docks on Feb 3. (WT).

A well described Goshawk was observed at Drakes Beach on Feb 3 (WT). It was thought to be an immature. There were several sightings of Rough-legged Hawks; one on Chileno Valley Road on Feb 20, the others from inland areas, including Grizzly Island (DE). A Prairie Falcon was at Grizzly Island on Feb (John Parmeter). A Peregrine Falcon was observed at Marin Keyes on Feb 21 (DE). 5000+ Sandhill Cranes were in the Woodbridge Road area, Sacramento County on Jan 26 (DE).

The only Golden Plover was a single bird at the Spaletta Ranch on Feb 3 (WT). Six Wandering Tattlers at Bodega Head on Jan 27 is a good count (JP, Phil Lenna). Rock Sandpipers continue to be regular at Bodega Head, 2 were seen on Jan 27 (JP, PL). 8 American Avocets at Doran Park on the same date were a welcome sight for Sonoma County birders. This species usually does not winter over as it has done at the bay this year (JP, PL). A second winter Glaucous Gull was just north of Alcatraz Island on Feb 18 (DN). A flock of 1000+ Glaucous-winged Gulls is an unusual concentration seen at Port Sonoma (DE). Thayer's Gulls were seen by several observers, the most regular spot being the mouth of Salmon Creek, where several adults were noted. A first year Heermann's Gull was at Bodega Harbor on Feb 6, a good midwinter sighting (DE). A single Marbled Murrelet was seen from Bodega Head on Jan 27 and three Ancient Murrelets were seen there on the same date (JP, PL, Benjamin D Parmeter).

A flock of 35 Band-tailed Pigeons at Petaluma in early Feb is a good sighting (DN). 15 Short-eared Owls at Andrus Island in Sacramento County on Jan 26 is a sight not many birders get to see these days (DE). An Allen's Hummer was at Spring Lake on Feb 19 (DE). (Are there any earlier sightings?) A male Broad-billed Hummingbird was at Ventura, Ventura Co on Feb 18 (JP #460). This bird has been present at this spot for several weeks/. Six different California Thrashers seen and heard singing on Cavedale Road

is encouraging for a species which seems to be harder to find in our area (DE). A Brown Thrasher was watched at a feeder in Santa Barbara on Feb 16 (JP).

8 A Grace's Warbler, first seen on the Christmas Count, was present in Santa Barbara on Feb 17 (JP #461). It was seen by dozens of birders attending the WFO conference. It performed ably, calling a great deal and being quite active. A Cape May Warbler, a fairly well plumaged male, was on the UC campus at Goleta on Feb 16 (JP, BDP). This bird has been present for several weeks. An adult male Orchard Oriole was seen at Carpinteria by many persons attending the WFO Conference, including Kent Van Vuren and the Parmeters. A flock of 30-40 Evening Grosbeaks was seen at the College of Marin on Feb 10 (DN). A single Sage Sparrow on Cavedale Road on Jan 22 is a good winter sighting (DE). Two Different Harris Sparrows staked out in Santa Barbara were seen on Feb 16 (JP, BDP). A winter plumaged McCown's Longspur was just west of Santa Maria on Feb 18 (JP, KVV, BDP). This bird has been present several weeks and has been seen by many birders.

Remember to send or call with any unusual sightings!

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. Dues are payable in September and should be mailed to: Ruth Hawksley, 51 Shadyleaf Ct, Santa Rosa 95405. (Family--\$6.00 Individual--\$4.50 Student--\$2.00)

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