

# Kite Tales

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APRIL

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
Vol. 14, No. 8 Sonoma County

1980

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

### April 10, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. RROS General Meeting and Election Night

Come and and all and vote for your new officers. The program will be Vim Vader with slides and talk of birds and the country of Norway.

### April 19, Sunday, Field Trip to Sugarloaf Ridge State Park

Meet leader Mike Parmeter at the parking lot at 7:30 a.m. Bring a lunch and be ready to see all the spring arrivals.

### May 4, Sunday, RROS Offshore Trip to the Cordelle Banks

Sign up now for some terrific pelagic birding. Mike has promised a smooth voyage. What more can you ask for? The cost is \$20.00 per person (a bargain!). Make checks payable to RROS and mail to: Mike Parmeter  
2500 Emerson St  
Napa, Ca  
707-255-6757

Confirmation will be mailed. Get your money in soon...this is a trip for life and year birds.

## DUES

It's time to remember about dues again. They are: \$6.00 for family, \$4.50 for individuals and \$2.00 for students. They are due in May.

## FIELD TRIP RESULTS

Our outing to Hood Mtn on March 16th got off to a bit of a slow start. At 8:30, our meeting time, a group of some fourteen birders found themselves facing a locked gate. The county ranger was a little late...but by 9 o'clock we were wandering on down the trail. It was a beautiful day for a hike...clear skies, a light breeze and warm sun. And we hiked more than we birded. We saw birds, lots of birds, 25 species in all. But about 90% of the birds we looked at seemed to be either Hutton's Vireos or Ruby-crowned Kinglets.

The trip even included a refreshing bit of excitement. Santa Rosa Creek had a little more water than anticipated, which resulted in a little detour down the canyon. It was soon apparent that there was no alternative ford, so we all got our feet wet in some very cold water. A little spice to a fun day.

On March 21st, a hardy group of 13 were watching Sage Grouse booming at the lek just north of greater downtown Litchfield, Cal. It was nearly 6 a.m. when the sun finally shed enough light to reveal a herd of Pronghorn Antelope. A nice way to start a fairly terrific day of birding, snow-ball fights and general good times. After breakfast in the main dining room of the Litchfield Hilton, we proceeded to the Fleming Unit at Honey Lake in search of longspur and a possible Harris' Sparrow. No luck, but we did

we did see Eagles! Strong winds kept things from being perfect. After a lunch break birding continued in Janesville. Up Janesville Grade for some montane birds, a few county birds for some (Plumas) and fun in the snow. A note of interest for those planning to go next time; the 7 Acres Motel (AKA the Litchfield Hilton) overbooked leaving some sleeping on the floor and in the utility room. (Actually, it was more of an adventure.) Sunday morning took us up to Eagle Lake for a few good birds. A Goshawk zipping along Gallatin Ridge was a bonus for us all. A communal lunch wrapped up a great outing, and a Pygmy Owl finally made an appearance after being beckoned all weekend.

Horned Grebe	Sage Grouse	Bushtit
Eared Grebe	California Quail	White-breasted Nuthatch
Western Grebe	Ring-necked Pheasant	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Pied-billed Grebe	Sandhill Crane	Pygmy Nuthatch
Double-crested Cormorant	American Coot	Brown Creeper
Black-crowned Night Heron	Killdeer	Bewick's Wren
Whistling Swan	Greater Yellowlegs	Long-billed Marsh Wren
Canada Goose	California Gull	Sage Thrasher
Mallard	Ring-billed Gull	American Robin
Gadwall	Rock Dove	Western Bluebird
Pintail	Barn Owl	Mountain Bluebird
Green-winged Teal	Pygmy Owl	Townsend's Solitaire
Cinnamon Teal	Common Flicker	Golden-crowned Kinglet
American Wigeon	Acorn Woodpecker	Water Pipit
Redhead	Lewis Woodpecker	Loggerhead Shrike
Ring-necked Duck	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	House Sparrow
Lesser Scaup	Williamson's Sapsucker	Western Meadowlark
Common Goldeneye	Hairy Woodpecker	Red-wing Blackbird
Bufflehead	Downy Woodpecker	Tricolored Blackbird
Ruddy Duck	White-headed Woodpecker	Brewer's Blackbird
Common Merganser	Black Phoebe	Evening Grosbeak
Turkey Vulture	Say's Phoebe	Lesser Goldfinch
Goshawk	Horned Lark	Rufous-sided Towhee
Cooper's Hawk	Tree Swallow	Savannah Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Stellar's Jay	Sage Sparrow
Rough-legged Hawk	Scrub Jay	Dark-eyed Junco
Golden Eagle	Black-billed Magpie	White-crowned Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Common Raven	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Marsh Hawk	Common Crow	Song Sparrow
Prairie Falcon	Clark's Nutcracer	
American Kestrel	Mountain Chickadee	

#### OBSERVATIONS by Mike Parmeter

Sixteen Cattle Egrets were still near Hall Road on March 1 (Doug Ellis; Terry Colborn, David LaFollette). This is a late date for the species. On the same date, 6 Brant were at Bodega Harbor (DE, TC, DLF). On March 25, a flock of approximately 200 Brant were at Bodega Bay (John Parmeter, BD Parmeter). The harbor is one of this species' staging areas on its northward migration. A male and a female European Wigeon were seen at Bolinas Lagoon on March 5 (DE, Dave Schuford, Jules Evans). The sewer ponds on Channel dr is one of the most dependable spots for Wood Ducks; 12 birds were there on

March 11 (DE). Three Wood Ducks were seen at Lake Solano on March 21 (Jp, Jack Arnold, Dan Nelson, BDP). A female Hooded Merganser was seen next to the highway at Lake Almanor on March 21 (BDP, JA, JP, DN).

A Goshawk was seen by the entire group on March 23 at the SE Corner of Eagle Lake. This was a "lifer" for several persons including David Lowe and Dan Nelson. RROS is helping to bring along the next generation of hardcore birders, with the two fellows just mentioned, plus John Sterling (now studying biology at Humboldt State) and John Parmeter (studying physical sciences at UC Berkeley). There were several sightings of Rough-legged Hawks, including one at Bridgehaven March 1 (DE, TC, DLF), another at Zamora in Yolo Cty on Feb 10 (Joel Hornstein) and several seen during the RROS Honey Lake trip. Rough-legged Hawks were noted on West Butte Rd, Sutter Cty on Feb 9 (JH) and near Knights Landing, Yolo Cty on Feb 10 (JH). A Golden Eagle, immature, was seen over the Petaluma marshes on Feb 18 (JH). Single Bald Eagles were noted twice on the Honey Lake trip and on the way home a pair of immatures were seen over Lake Almanor (JP, JA, DN). A pair of Prairie Falcons just north of Janesville, Lassen Cty, was one of the highlights of the Honey Lake trip.

Nine male and 3 female Sage Grouse were watched for 1-1½ hours on the lek north of litchfield on March 22. This was a lifer for a few of the group, including Dan Nelson. Sandhill Cranes were noted several times at the Fleming Unit at Honey Lake and a single bird was seen at Eagle Lake on March 23. A Rock Sandpiper was at Horseshoe Cove on March 5 (DE, DS). Three Thayer's Gulls were seen at Salmon Creek on March 11 (DE, TC, DLF). This is one of our most dependable spots for this species. Four first-year Heermann's Gulls were seen from Duncan's Landing on March 1 (DE).

The male Costa's Hummingbird was still present at the feeder of Clarence Wolcott on Dry Creek Rd through early March. Two Pileated Woodpeckers were noted in Willow Creek Canyon on March 1 (DE, TC, DLF) and single birds were at Annadell State Park on March 10 and 11 (DE). Both Yellow-bellied and Williamson's Sapsuckers were found on the RROS trip to Honey Lake on March 23. Also on the same date and same area, several White-headed Woodpeckers were seen. At the time of this writing, all the regular swallows had arrived (March 25). Two Canyon Wrens were singing at Monticello Dam on March 21 (JP, JA, DN, BDP). On the same date and place, a single Rock Wren was seen (Gerry Mugele, Kathy Mugele, Nick Gilman). A pair of Sage Thrashers were seen near the Sage Grouse lek (JP, many observers). was another lifer for Dan Nelson. Mountain Bluebirds were noted several times at Honey Lake and Eagle Lake. An adult Northern Shrike was at the crossing of the north Fork of Deer Creek on Hwy 32 in Tehama Cty on March 21 (JP, JA, DN, BDP).

Orange-crowned Warblers are in territory and singing. On March 24, a single Warbling Vireo was singing in the campground at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park (JP, BDP). Ranger Jim Schmit reports a flock of 15 Evening Grosbeaks at Duncan Mills. These were seen regularly for some time and were last noted on March 8. Dan Nelson reports this species has been regular about his house in Petaluma. The species was also noted several times by RROS at Eagle Lake. Red Crossbills were calling in Willow Creek on March 1 (DE). A Sage Sparrow was seen and heard singing at Bouverie Audubon Reserve on March 8 (DE, Les Perry, Warren Munson).

The Goshawk is new to the RROS trip life list. Additional records: a Lewis Woodpecker was at Janesville on March 22, it was seen by the entire group. A male and female Phainopepla were at Lake Solano, where they are regular, on March 21 (BDP, JP). Two Arctic Loons were on Lake Berryessa on March 21, near the top of the dam (BDP, JP). A Clark's Nutcracker was at Eagle Lake on March 23 (RROS).

EDITOR'S NOTE

Mike Parmeter is single-handedly putting out a great observations column. He really does need our help. Take a minute and call him or write a post card with an interesting sighting. It doesn't have to be rare or exotic, just interesting. Early spring records for our normal residents or even just a first bird for you. Let's give Mike our support!

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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 habitat. Meetings are held on 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.  
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