

Kite Tales

MAY

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Vol. 14, No. 9 Sonoma County

1980

COMING ATTRACTIONS

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

May 8, Thursday, RROS General Meeting and Potluck Supper

Our final meeting before summer will be a potluck dinner at Sugarloaf Ridge. Come meet your new officers and enjoy some evening birding and a super supper! Bring your own utensils (silverware, plates and cups) and a favorite goodie. Take Highway 12 from Santa Rosa or Sonoma areas and follow signs to Kenwood. About one half mile north of Kenwood, turn onto Adobe Canyon Road. Follow this road to the park; from the ranger booth proceed on the main road to the group picnic area. (There will be no admission charge to RROS members and guests). 6:30 p.m. will begin the fun!

May 10, Saturday, Field Trip to Pine Flat Road

Meet leader Doug Ellis at 7:30 a.m. at the junction of Hiwy 128 and Geysers Road. Bring a lunch and friends.

May 17, Saturday, Arroyo Cheap Thrills Spring Bird Count

This is the third annual count in this area (Petaluma River and Marsh and Northern Marin). Contact Dave Shuford (P.O. Box 385, Inverness 94937--415-669-7429) if you're interested.

June 7, Saturday, Field Trip to Gualala River

Plan to arrive Friday evening, June 6, at the County Campground just east of the Gualala River Bridge. Bird all day Saturday June 7 in the Gualala area. Leader Mike Parmeter will be at campgrounds on Friday to reserve campsites. Bring your own food and sleeping bag. Contact Mike with any questions: 255-6757.

OLD BUSINESS

April 10 included an outstanding program on Norway and the election of officers. Thanks to the nominating committee for a job well done. The new officers are: President--Betty Burrige, V.P.--Doug Ellis, Secretary--Deyea Harper, Treasurer--Ellen Falconer.

DUES

Your new treasurer will be happy to receive your dues payment. Mail to her (Ellen Falconer, 1151 Corby Av, Santa Rosa) or give it to her at the next meeting. Dues are: \$6.00 for family, \$4.50 for Individuals and \$2.00 for students.

FIELD TRIP RESULTS

Mike Parmeter led a group of seven to Sugarloaf Ridge to enjoy some spring birds. Following is the list for the day:

Sugarloaf (cont)

California Quail	Chesnut-backed Chickadee	Wilson's Warbler
Mountain Quail	Plain Titmouse	Red-winged Blackbird (4)
Mourning Dove (1)	Bushtit	Northern Oriole
Anna's Hummingbird	Brown Creeper (3)	Brewer's Blackbird
Acorn Woodpecker	Wrentit	Brown-headed Cowbird
Hairy Woodpecker (2)	House Wren	Western Tanager (3)
Downy Woodpecker (1)	Bewick's Wren (1)	Black-headed Grosbeak
Nuttall's Woodpecker	American Robin	Lazuli Bunting (3)
Black Phoebe (2)	Western Bluebird (2)	Purple Finch
Western Flycatcher	Ruby-crowned Kinglet (1)	Lesser Goldfinch
Western Wood Peewee (1)	Hutton's Vireo	Rufous-sided Towhee
Tree Swallow (10)	Solitary Vireo (4)	Brown Towhee
Stellar's Jay	Warbling Vireo	Dark-eyed Junco
Scrub Jay	Orange-crowned Warbler	Chipping Sparrow
Common Raven (2)	Yellow Warbler	Golden-crowned Sparrow
		Song Sparrow

OBSERVATIONS--by Mike Parmeter

On March 28, 3 Red-necked Grebes were near the jetty at Doran Park. One of the birds was in nearly full breeding plumage. (Ruth Hawksley, Hal Corey, Stan Carpenter) On April 15, the same 3 persons surveyed the Great Blue Heron nest area at the west end of Lake Hennessey. 23 active nests were counted. Joel Hornstein reports a Cattle Egret near Colusa on March 21. A Louisiana Heron was seen by Dan Nelson at San Diego on April 2. This was part of a big birding trip to So. Cal. that Dan took early in April. On April 19, a single "cackling" size Canada Goose was present at the pond at the junction of Hwys 1 and 116. This bird has been present in the Bridgehaven area for several weeks (BD Parmeter). A flock of 10-15 White-fronted Geese flew over Petaluma on April 18 (DN). 4 Ring-necked Ducks were still at the Franklin Park Cemetary pond on April 15 (Doug Ellis). 3 female Hooded Mergansers were at Five Brooks Stable Pond on March 26 (DE, BDP).

Two Swainson's Hawks were Yuba City on March 26 (JH). A Prairie Falcon was just north of Sacramento on March 7 and another was east of Marysville on March 9 (JH). A Marsh Hawk nest was found at Bodega Head on March 19 (Jack Arnold). It contained 2 Eggs.

Mountain Quail were calling commonly at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park on April 20. 4 Virginia Rails were noted at the Bodega Bay Rail Ponds on April 19 (Betty Burridge, JA, BDP). A Lesser Yellowlegs was at Sacramento Wildlife Refuge on March 21 (JH). A flock of 180 American Avocets was at the mouth of Novato Creek on March 28 (DE). Black-necked Stilts were found in the flooded fields east of Binford Road just north of Novato. 7 birds were seen, but on April 10, 18 birds were present (DE). It will be worth checking out to see if the birds nest here. On March 28, 2 stilts were seen along Lakeville Hwy.

The big sighting for this period was an adult Laughing Gull in breeding plumage at Doran Park on April 15 (Jules & Meryl Evens, Gary Page, Lynn Stenzel, Barbara Cruse, Andrea Meyer). The Bird was looked for subsequently, but was not, to my knowledge, seen again. A flock of 9 Heermann's Gulls (1st year plumage) at Bodega Bay on April 19 is a good sighting (BB, JA, BDP). Joel Hornstein reports Ground Doves were common at Palm Desert on April 13.

On April 12, Joel reported 2 adult and 2 fledging Great Horned Owls at

Morongo Valley. On the evening of April 19, 2 Spotted Owls were calling in Armstrong Woods State Park. (BDP) One bird was giving the typical 4 hoot call, the other the position call. On the afternoon of the same day, several Vaux Swifts were present at Armstrong (BDP). The Costa Hummingbird still comes to the feeder of Clarence Wolcott, the latest date was April 18. Four or five Long-eared Owls were noted at Estero Trail, Pt Reyes on March 26 (BDP, DE, John Parmeter).

A Tropical Kingbird was near Whittier on March 31 (DN). Western Kingbirds have arrived. This species was seen in Glen Ellen on April 10 (Kathy Mugele) and on April 12, one flew over my house in Napa (BDP). On April 8, Doug Ellis reports Western Flycatchers at Annadel and Bob McLean had one near Sonoma on April 10. A single Western Wood Peewee was calling at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park on April 20. A Rough-winged Swallow was at Yuba City on March 29 (JH). Cliff Swallows were at Sacramento on March 8 (JH).

A North American Dipper was in Sugarloaf Ridge State Park on April 13 (Bill Payne). At least 3 LeConte's thrashers were seen near the 29 Palms entrance to Joshua Tree Natl Monument on April 12 (JH). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was seen on Los Alamos Rd on March 29 (DE). Several Solitary Vireos were at Sugarloaf on April 20 (RROS).

A Cape May Warbler in breeding plumage was singing at UC Santa Barbara on April 14 (DN). This bird has been present at this site for several weeks. On April 2 a Black-throated Gray Warbler was at the base of Monticello Dam (DE). My earliest date for Wilson's Warbler was March 30 along Salmon Creek Road (DE). A northern Waterthrush was at San Diego on April 2 (DN). On March 25, a flock of 12 Tricolored Blackbirds were present on Franz Valley Road (RH, HC, SC).

Hooded Orioles were at Morongo Valley on April 14 (JH), and a single bird was seen in Berkeley on April 29 (JP). Two birds were in the palms in the Sonoma Plaza in late April (DE). Scotts Orioles were at Yucca Valley on April 14 (JH). Northern Orioles were in Kenwood on March 20 (DE). At least 3 Western Tanagers were noted in Sugarloaf on April 20 (RROS). The earliest date for Black-headed Grosbeaks was April 18 in Annadel (DE). A single Evening Grosbeak was present in Napa on April 14 (BDP).

Lazuli Buntings were noted at Sugarloaf on April 20 (RROS). On April 12, several Lawrence's Goldfinches were at the Angwin Airport in fiddleneck (Wayne Tillay). On April 15, they were seen, again in fiddleneck, near Lake Hennessey (RH, HC, SC).

A clay-colored Sparrow was at the LA Arboretum on April 3 (DN). Chipping Sparrows were common in Sugarloaf on April 20 (RROS). A Harris Sparrow was seen at Santa Barbara on April 3 (DN). Also on the same date, a White-throated Sparrow was seen at Goleta (DN).