

Kite Tales

MARCH

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Vol. 15, No. 7

1981

COMING ATTRACTIONS

March 12, Thursday, 7:30 pm, RROS General Meeting

The program will be presented by Peter Leveque on his sabbatical year at Cornell University. It will include slides of the Sapsucker Woods and other areas in the vicinity.

March 13, 14, 15, RROS Field Trip to Honey Lake

This is our traditional trip to the Sage Grouse lek, complete with grouse booming. Other possibilities are falcons, eagles, Sandhill Cranes, Longspurs, and Northern Shrikes. Friday, Mar 13, will be a day to get you there. Spend it birding the Central Valley and up into the mountains. Meet at 5:30 am on Saturday at the Seven Acres Motel in Litchfield. We will return here for breakfast, then out to the Fleming Unit at Honey Lake at about 9:30 am. A similar plan will be in force on Sunday. The motel in Litchfield is already full, but accommodations are available in Susanville (only 20 miles away) or, there are camping facilities at Honey Lake. David LaFolette will be the trip leader (707-838-9425).

March 14, RROS Field Trip to Annadale State Park

Meet leader Betty Burridge at 8 am at the parking lot at the end of Channel Drive. Bring lunch, warm clothes and/or etc.

May 3, Sunday, RROS Mother's Day Pelagic Trip

Treat Mom to the Cordelle ^{Banks} this spring boat trip. The first 20 people to sign up get to go. Mail check for \$20.00 (payable to RROS) per person to Ellen Falconer 1151 Corby Av Santa Rosa, Ca 95401. She will mail you a confirmation. Mike Parmeter will be the trip leader.

FIELD TRIP RESULTS

Leader Doug Ellis and group roamed the Delta and came up with this impressive list:

Western Grebe	Sandhill Crane (5000+)	Canyon Wren (1)
Pied-billed Grebe	Common Gallinule	Rock Wren (2-3)
Double-crested Cormorant	American Coot	Mockingbird
Great Blue Heron	Killdeer	American Robin
Green Heron (2)	Herring Gull	Western Bluebird
Great Egret	California Gull	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
American Bittern (6)	Ring-billed Gull	Water Pipit
Whistling Swan	Band-tailed Pigeon	Cedar Waxwing
Canada Goose	Rock Dove	Phainopepla (1)
White-fronted Goose	Mourning Dove	Loggerhead Shrike
Snow Goose	Burrowing Owl	Starling
Ross' Goose	Short-eared Owl	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Pintail	Anna's Hummingbird	Common Yellowthroat
Cinnamon Teal	Belted Kingfisher	House Sparrow
American Wigeon	Common Flicker	Western Meadowlark
Bufflehead	Acorn Woodpecker	Red-winged Blackbird

Field Trip (cont)

Ruddy Duck (1 albinistic)	Downy Woodpecker	Brewer's Blackbird
Common Merganser (20)	Nuttall's Woodpecker	House Finch
Turkey Vulture	Black Phoebe	American Goldfinch
White-tailed Kite(90+)	Horned Lark	Lesser Goldfinch
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Scrub Jay	Rufous-sided Towhee
Red-tailed Hawk	Yellow-billed Magpie	Savannah Sparrow
Red-shouldered Hawk	Common Crow	Dark-eyed Junco
Rough-legged Hawk	Plain Titmouse	White-crowned Sparrow
Golden Eagle	Bushtit	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Marsh Hawk	White-breasted Nuthatch	Fox Sparrow
American Kestrel	Wrentit	Lincoln's Sparrow
California Quail	Bewick's Wren	Song Sparrow
Ring-necked Pheasant	Long-billed Marsh Wren	

OBSERVATIONS--by Mike Parmeter

Not many observations this past month. Either there has not been much birding or the records aren't being forwarded to me. Let's hear from you! The season has changed, we've come full cycle and things are beginning to warm up a bit. Several persons have reported Allen's Hummers. Small flocks of Tree Swallows have been seen. A few of this species winter over almost annually, but recent observations are probably migrants. One person reports a singing Orange-crowned Warbler (Phil Lenna).

A flock of 110 White Pelicans near Thornton on 1-24 (Doug Ellis) is a noteworthy number. Jim Matzinger saw an immature White-faced Ibis near Lower Lake on 2-5. This is probably the same bird noted on the Christmas Count. Four Canada Geese were at Fountain Grove Ranch thru 1-31 and two were at a Kenwood pond 2-6 thru 2-11 (DE). A male European Wigeon was at the NW corner of Bolinas Lagoon on 2-8 (LC Binford, John Parmeter). Eight Redheads were at Spring Lake thru 2-3 (Hal Corey, DE). Ten were at Detert Reservoir on 2-8 (BD Parmeter, PL, DE,JP). Two female Barrow's Goldeneyes were at Lake Merritt on 2-1 where this species regularly winters (JP,BDP). An Oldsquaw was seen in a large flock of Scoters on Richardson Bay on 2-8 (LCB, John Arnold). Three male Hooded Mergansers, together with 9 females were at Five Brooks Stable on 2-8 (JP,LCB,JA,BDP). Thirty Common Mergansers at Fountain Grove Ranch on 1-31 is a large number for an inland sighting in Sonoma County (DE).

Rough-legged Hawks were seen on 2-9 over Sonoma and 2-12 at Sears Point (Gerry Mugele). A Ferruginous Hawk was near Stage Gulch Road on 1-31 (Bob McLean). Terry Colborn reports an immature Golden Eagle near Bridgehaven on 2-7. On the same date RROS saw two at Monticello Dam. An immature Bald Eagle was at the north end of Lake Berryessa on 2-14 (JP,PL,DE,BDP). Richard Merriss observed a Peregrine Falcon near the Sonoma County Airport on 1-31. Merlin sightings: Kenwood 1-23 (DE), Clearlake Highlands 2-17 (JM), Fulton 2-22 (BDP).

The RROS group saw approximately 5000 Sandhill Cranes at Woodbridge on 2-7! Doug Ellis counted 23 Black Rails in the Port Chicago marshes on 2-17, 18. On 2-8, a flock of 110 American Avocets were at the SE corner of Bolinas Lagoon (LCB,JP,JA). Two Marbled Murrelets were seen from Bodega Head on 1-31 and 2 Ancient Murrelets were seen from Duncan Landing on the same date (DE).

A flock of 120 Band-tailed Pigeons were at Los Alamos Road on 2-20 (DE). These are probably early migrants. Doug Ellis has become a Pygmy Owl caller extra-

Observations--cont

ordinaire. He reports 4 birds in Sugarloaf Park on 2-4. Doug also reports 24 Short-eared Owls at Andrus Island on 1-24. On 2-7, RROS saw 6 Short-eared Owls at the same spot. The Costa's Hummingbird continued to come to Clarence Wolcott's feeder until mid-January. It has been present here, for the 2nd year, since late last June. Two reports of single Lewis Woodpeckers: 1 bird on Lovall Valley Road in Sonoma on 2-14 (DE), and the other on Henry Road in Napa County on 2-8 (JP).

A flock of 15-20 Tree Swallows at Detert Reservoir on 2-14 was probably a group of early migrants (BDP,DE,JP). Yellow-billed Magpies were at their usual spot at the north end of Lake Berryessa on 2-14 (DE,JP,PL,BDP). This species is resident here. Canyon Wrens were seen (or heard) at Monticello Dam on 2-7 2 birds (RROS) and 3 birds on 2-14 (JP,DE,PL). Also seen here on 2-7 were Rock Wrens (RROS). Four Townsend's Solitaires were found at Cobb Mt on 2-16 (JM). A Black-and-white Warbler apparently wintered in the city of Napa. It was seen for the second time on 1-23 (PL). It is thought to be a young male. Hal Corey reports a flock of 600 Tricolored Blackbirds on Franz Valley Road on 2-10! On 2-14 a small flock of 4-6 Lawrence's Goldfinches were at the north end of Lake Berryessa (BDP,JP,DE,PL). Two Red Crossbills were near the top of Cobb Mt on 2-16 and gave Jim Matzinger an eye level view of them. Three Sage Sparrows were on Cavedale Road on 2-4 (DE). A number of this species winter in our area. White-throated Sparrows were reported from Kenwood on 1-25 (DE) and from Novato (Clarence Tucker).

Sightings may be sent or phoned to Mike Parmeter 2500 Emerson St Napa, Ca 94558 707-255-6757.

NATURE TOURS WEST

NTW has planned some interesting trips for this year. Included are: North Coast California, Point Reyes, Death Valley, Condors, a Coastal Redwood Tour. They also have daily whale-watching tours from March 12 thru March 22. Information can be obtained from NTW 9410 Chalk Hill Road Healdsburg, Ca 95448 or call (707) 838-7382.