

Kite Tales

APRIL

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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1981

COMING ATTRACTIONS

April 9, Thursday, 7:30 pm, RROS General Meeting

Dave Shuford will give a presentation (including slides) on Alaska. We will also vote for our new officers. The nominating committee (Jack Arnold, Terry Colborn, and Hal Corey) will present an outstanding selection for your consideration.

April 18, Saturday, 7:30 am, Field Trip to Sugarloaf State Park

Meet leader Mike Parmeter at 7:30 am (early to rise...etc) at Sugarloaf State Park in Kenwood. This trip should produce a variety of spring birds and songs. Bring lunch and accoutrements.

May 3, Sunday, 6:30 am, Cordelle Banks Boat Trip

The boat is full. Participants should be at the dock no later than 6:30 am! Bring chum (popcorn, suet, bread) and lunch and water. There will not be any other refreshments on board. Call Mike Parmeter with any questions (255-6757).

May ?? (Date to be announced) Field Trip to Ida Clayton Road

June ?? (Date to be announced) Overnight Trip to the Gualala River

CONGRATULATIONS!!

To Martha Stiles on the birth of her baby girl on February 27!

To Mike Parmeter on being chosen the chairman of the California Rare Bird Committee!

FIELD TRIP RESULTS--Honey Lake Revisited

David LaFollette and about 18 enthusiastic birders enjoyed a terrific weekend. The overnight low was only about 30 degrees with a warm clear Saturday afternoon. On Sunday, a storm coming in brought light snow to the Eagle Lake area and snow and rain followed everyone home.

Red-necked Grebe (Eagle Lake)

Eared Grebe

Western Grebe

Great Blue Heron

Sandhill Crane

Canada Goose

Mallard

Gadwall

Green-winged Teal

Cinnamon Teal

American Wigeon

Northern Shoveler

Redhead

Canvasback

Lesser Scaup

Common Goldeneye

Ring-necked Pheasant

Chukar

American Coot

Killdeer

Common Snipe

California Gull

Ring-billed Gull

Band-tailed Pigeon

Rock Dove

Mourning Dove

Barn Owl

Great Horned Owl

Common Flicker

Acorn Woodpecker

Lewis Woodpecker

Hairy Woodpecker

Pygmy Nuthatch

Brown Creeper

Bewick's Wren

Long-billed Marsh Wren

Sage Thrasher

American Robin

Western Bluebird

Mountain Bluebird

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Loggerhead Shrike

Yellow-rumped Warbler

House Sparrow

Western Meadowlark

Red-winged Blackbird

Brewer's Blackbird

Evening Grosbeak

Honey Lake (cont)

Bufflehead	White-headed Woodpecker	Purple Finch
Ruddy Duck	Black Phoebe	Cassin's Finch
Common Merganser	Horned Lark	American Goldfinch
Red-breasted Merganser	Tree Swallow	Lesser Goldfinch
Turkey Vulture	Steller's Jay	Red Crossbill
Red-tailed Hawk	Scrub Jay	Savannah Sparrow
Rough-legged Hawk	Black-billed Magpie	Sage Sparrow
Golden Eagle	Common Raven	White-crowned Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Common Crow	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Marsh Hawk	Mountain Chickadee	Fox Sparrow
Prairie Falcon	Plain Titmouse	Lincoln's Sparrow
American Kestrel	Bushtit	Song Sparrow
Sage Grouse (20+)	White-breasted Nuthatch	
California Quail	Red-breasted Nuthatch	

Mammals seen include: Prong-horned Antelope, Buffalo, Coyote, Skunk, Least Chipmunk, Deer, Jack Rabbit, Deer Mouse, California Ground Squirrel.

OBSARVATIONS

March was a relatively dull month locally, probably due to high winds from the SE throughout much of the period. Clear skies and temperatures soaring into the fifties at mid-month did lead to some of our more dramatic observations.

A Red-necked Grebe provided some excitement for a group of RROS birders somewhere in NE California. The find of the month was undoubtedly the flock of "several hundred" Laysan Albatross seen at the Cordelle Banks 3-23 (Benjamin D Parameter, John Parameteer). That sighting was capped with 4 Black-footed Albatross on the Tides Wharf on their return. Yellow-nosed and Browed Albatross were seen in the usual numbers throughout the period (mob), but were absent from the Wolcots feeder in the Dry Creek Valley since the Pleistocene.

A South Trinidad Petrel was seen between South Trinidad and Samoa near Point St George 3-15 (mob). A pair of Brown Pelicans were reported off Pigeon Point flying south 3-14 (Guy MacCaskey) but this had not been verified at press time. A White Pelican but some can't. A White-faced Ibis seen in Cobb Valley (3-5) (Brad Hansen, Jimm Mattsinger) may be the same bird reported from Anderson Marsh on the Clearlake CBC. This may explain the presence of the female Ibis x Saw-whet Owl Hybrid earlier this year.

The Limpkin reported last February was again seen at the Hall Ranch 3-12 (Dan Nelsen, BDP, JP). And through the creative use of a hot air balloon and a helicopter, the Parameters managed to add this bird to their Sonoma and Napa County lists.

Excellent photos aided in the positive ID of an American Coot at Spring Lake 3-22 (G Mewgull, Rick Labaudour). Always nice to see this Harbinger of Spring.

Plovers, Sandpipers and Gulls much of March (mob) and April Fools.

OBSERVATIONS TWO--Dan Nelson & Gerry Mugele

Many Thanks to Mike Parmeter for a terrific job writing this column for the last year and a half. Mike has accepted the chair of the Cal Rare Bird Committee. As such, his time limitations force him to turn over the Observations to DN and GM.

Despite this change in management March has been slack for birding. Our rain

OBSERVATIONS (cont)

arrived a month or two late this year and inhibited coverage in our area. Hardy members found what birds were around.

The Honey Lake trip was a success as usual, a highlight being a migrant Red-necked Grebe at the Eagle Lake Marina on 3-15. Mike and John Parmeter found some "interesting" birds on a pelagic to the Cordelle Banks on 3-23. They found a Laysan Albatross, 4 Black-footed Albatross, a Flesh-footed Shearwater, 2 Short-tailed Shearwaters, 2 Pink-footed and about 100 Sooty Shearwaters. About 200 White Pelicans were seen at Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge on 2-28 (JH). An early Green Heron was near Oroville on 2-12 (JH). A Least Bittern has been present at Lake Merced since early March (mob). Canada Geese were seen in various locations in Sonoma County; 2 at Bridgehaven 2-28 (DE), 2 on Calistoga Rd 3-10 (DE), 2 in Kenwood 3-12 (DE), and 1 in Glen Ellen (GM,KM). Sixteen "Black" Brant were in Bodega Harbor 3-23 (BDP,JP) a single bird was inland at Bennett Valley on 2-4 (RM) and 300 were seen at Bodega Bay on 3-31 (HC,RH). Two Snow Geese were at Bridgehaven through 2-28 (DE). Seven Gadwall were at the Franklin Cemetery pond 2-28 (DE). A male Eurasian Wigeon was seen at the farm pond on the Mendoza Ranch on 2-28 (BDP). This species was seen sporadically throughout the winter. Another was seen at the Sac NWR 3-13 (RROS). A Blue-winged Teal was at Willow Creek pond near the Russian River 3-20 (JA, LCB, BDP,JP). Eleven Wood Ducks were at Fountain Grove Ranch 2-28 (DE). A Tufted Duck has been seen throughout the winter on Richardson Bay and was still present during early March (DN). Hooded Mergansers continue to be seen at Five Brooks pond with a high count of 13 (4 males, 9 females) on 3-1 (DN,WN). A pair of Red-breasted Mergansers were seen on Eagle Lake 3-15 (DE,BMc). Twenty-nine Common Mergansers were at Fountain Grove Ranch 2-28 (DE).

An adult Bald Eagle was well studied at the Dakin Unit at Honey Lake, and an immature was seen at Eagle Lake 3-14 & 3-15 (RROS). A Golden Eagle was seen at Kenwood 3-8 (TC). Golden Eagles and Rough-legged Hawks were also seen at Honey Lake. A Prairie Falcon was seen in the Sutter Buttes on 2-8 (JH). One was also seen at Talmadge on 2-6 (OJK). A Peregrine Falcon was at Doran Park 3-3 (PL).

Mountain Quail were heard calling from Ida Clayton Rd on 3-10 (DE) and have been seen in Angwin (WT). Doug Ellis continues to report Black Rails at Pt. Chicago Marsh. He tallied 15 birds there on 3-17. Doug also saw a Black-necked Stilt along Lakeville Hwy on 3-20. Six Lesser Golden Plovers were still at the Spaletta Ranch at Pt Reyes on 2-15 (JH). Three Rock Sandpipers remained at Bodega Head through 3-21 (DE). A first-year Heermann's Gull was seen on the offshore trip 3-23 (JP,BDP). Caspian Terns are returning now, with one bird at Sunnywool Lake, Santa Clara Co on 3-19 (DE), and 2 in Bodega Harbor 3-23 (BDP,JP), and 25 in Bodega Bay on 3-31 (HC, RH). Four Marbled Murrelets were seen off Bodega, 3 in breeding plumage (DE).

Spotted Owls have been heard in Willow Creek Canyon; 4 on 2-25 and 1 on 2-28 (DE). A Short-eared Owl was seen near Gridley on 3-1 (JH). A Saw-whet Owl was watched for 45 minutes on Gehricke Road in Sonoma on 2-10 (HC, OC). A Vaux's Swift was in Colusa 2-21 (JH). Three White-throated Swifts were at Russian Gulch 2-22 (DE). Lewis' Woodpeckers were found in Janesville 3-14 (RROS), one was seen in the Sutter Buttes 2-8 (JH) and one was on Lovall Valley Rd (HC,OC).

An early Western Flycatcher was in Petaluma 3-17 (DN). The Skylark continues to be seen at the Hall Ranch through early March. A lone Tree Swallow was at Gray Lodge 2-7 (JH). An early Barn Swallow was at the Marin Co Civic Center on 3-5 (GM,RW). Cliff Swallows were also seen there and along Tolay Creek later that day (GM,RW). A Yellow-billed Magpie was in Milpitas 3-19 (DE). Dippers were studied below the Cazanoma Lodge on Kidd Creek and were seen carrying nesting material on 3-20 (BDP,JP).

OBSERVATIONS (cont)

A Canyon Wren was at Eagle Lake on 3-15 (RROS). A Sage Thrasher continues to visit a feeder in Morro Bay. It was seen there on 3-6 (BDP). Both a Phainopepla and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher were noted at Lake Solano on 3-19 (BDP,JP).

The Grace's Warbler was seen again in Montecito, Santa Barbara Co on 3-6. This bird has been present there since December. A Northern "Bullock's" Oriole and a Western Tanager are still wintering in Santa Cruz 3-8 (BDP). Evening Grosbeaks, Cassin's Finches and Red Crossbills were all found during the Honey Lake Trip (RROS).

Joel Hornstein reports many Crossbills at the Calaveras Big Trees. A Vesper Sparrow was seen at the Hall Ranch 2-15, and Swamp Sparrows were reported with 1 at Wm Page Shields Salt Marsh on 2-15 and another was seen at Sac NWR on 2-28 (all JH). Two Rufous-crowned Sparrows (singing) were still at Willow Creek Rd through 2-22 (DE). Sage Sparrows (2) were seen on Cavedale Rd 3-9 (DE). Five-six Lapland Longspurs lingered at the Hall Ranch through early March (mob).

OBSERVERS: Dr Jack Arnold, Dr LC Binford, Hal & Olive Corey, Doug Ellis, Ruth Hawksley, Joel Hornstein, Oliver J Kolkmann, Brian McIntosh, Richard Merriss, Gerry & Kathy Mugele, Dan Nelson, Wini Nelson, Dr Benjamin D Parmeter, John Parmeter, Peter Levecque, Wayne Tillay and Roy Webb.

Observations should be phoned or mailed to Dan Nelson 400 Sunnyslope Petaluma, Ca 94952 (762-6152) or Gerry Mugele PO Box 790 Sonoma, Ca 95476 (938-2134).