

Kite Tales

APRIL

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

1982

Vol. 16, No. 8

Sonoma County

COMING ATTRACTIONS

April 8, Thursday, 7:30 pm RROS General Meeting

"With the Mexican Medical Research Team in Chiapas" will be presented by Dr John R Arnold. This is the interesting story of his recent expedition to Mexico. Tonight is also election Night--come and vote for your favorite candidate.

April 17, Saturday, 8 am, Field Trip to Annadel

Meet at the parking lot at the end of Channel Drive at 8 am. Bring a lunch jackets (and umbrellas?) etc. Be ready for spring migrants and nesting activities. We could use a leader.

Marin County Breeding Bird Project

Dave Shuford is organizing a "Breeding Bird Atlas" which will culminate in the publication of the study which will include breeding distribution maps of all species that breed in Marin. This is not a census, you just have to look for breeding evidence of each species. Dave can use all the help he can get. Call him at PRBO (415) 868-1221 or home (415) 669-7429 for more details.

Speedy

A copy of "Birds of Sonoma County" mailed (postmarked) in Santa Rosa February 16th 1982 arrived in the distant location of Napa, California on March 10, 1982. (Estimated speed approximately 2 miles per day.) (PS-if you do not have a copy yet, contact Dr Arnold-they are almost gone and a second printing is not planned).

FIELD TRIP RESULTS

The March trip to Honey Lake/Janesville was enjoyed by all with the following results.

Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Canada Goose, White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Am Widgeon, Northern Shoveler, Wood Duck, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Common Merganser, Turkey Vulture, White-tailed Kite, Goshawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle, Marsh Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Am Kestrel, Sage Grouse, Cal Quail, Mountain Quail, Sandhill Crane, Virginia Rail, Com Gallinule, Am Coot, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Long-billed Curlew, Greater Yellowlegs, Dunlin, Long-billed Dowitcher, Am Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, Herring Gull, Cal Gull, Ring-billed Gull
Band-tailed Pigeon, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl, White-throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Lewis Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, White-headed Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Rough-

Field Trip (cont)

winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Steller's Jay, Scrub Jay, Black-billed Magpie, Yellow-billed Magpie, Com Raven, Com Crow, Clark's Nutcracker, Mountain Chickadee, Chesnut-backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Dipper, Winter Wren, Bewick's Wren, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Am Robin, Varied Thrush, Western Bluebird, Mountain Bluebird, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Yellow-rumped Warbler, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Evening Grosbeak, Purple Finch, Cassin's Finch, House Finch, Am Goldfinch, Savannah Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

OBSERVATIONS--Dan Nelson (762-6152)

A single Horned Grebe was seen at the Petaluma Sewage Ponds on 3-7 (KVV,KC), Both a sub-adult Little Blue Heron and a Cattle Egret were seen at Lake Earl near Crescent City, where they have been wintering, on 3-22 (GM,KM). A high count of 26 Cattle Egrets were along High School Rd, Sebastopol on 2-26 (HC, SC,RH). An American Bittern was at Doran Park on 3-3 (HC,SC,RH). A Mallard with one young was seen at the Petaluma Sewage Ponds on 3-21. This is an early date for nesting of this species. (KVV,KC). A European Widgeon was seen on Bolinas Lagoon on 3-29 (RL), who also saw a Black Scoter at the Fish Docks, Pt Reyes on the same date. A Goshawk was seen at Fredonyer Meadow on the Honey Lake field trip (RROS). Of considerable interest were sub-adult Goshawks seen near the town of Bodega, with a Bald Eagle there also on 3-27 (KVV,KC). On the RROs trip to Honey Lake, a Bald Eagle was seen at Lake Almanor. Reports of Golden Eagles are from Petaluma on 3-21 (KVV,KC), Lake Almanor (RROS), 2 on Mt St Helena on 3-12 (RH,JS), 1 imm along Coleman Valley Rd on 2-20 (BDP), 1 imm on Pine Flat Rd on 3-16, 1 imm on Chanate Rd on 3-22 and 1 at Annadel on 3-27 (all RL). A Merlin graced the town of Glen Ellen on 3-12 (GM) and was seen again on 3-26 (KM). 25 Lesser Golden Plovers were seen on Pt Reyes on 3-13 where they have been present this winter (KVV,KC). 2 Lesser Yellowlegs were seen along Ramal Rd on 3-5 (HC,SC,RH). Greater Yellowlegs were rather scarce this winter in most areas. At least 1 Rock Sandpiper remained at Bodega Head through 3-20 (BDP). Caspian Terns were seen on Bolinas Lagoon on 3-29 (RL). 1 Pigeon Guillemot was inside Bodega Harbor on 3-27 (KVV,KC). Near Crescent City, California's first Barred Owl drew birders from throughout the state north to search for the hard to see but communicative bird. It was seen well but briefly on 3-20 and again a few days later (DN, C&WN,GM,KM). A Saw-whet Owl was picked up as a roadkill near Bodega Bay on 3-27 (RL). 8 White-throated Swifts were atop Mt St Helena on 3-12 (JS,RH). Anna's Hummingbirds were complete with nest and eggs as of 3-10 on the SSU campus (JA). A Pileated Woodpecker was noted along Chanate Rd on 3-22 (RL). Many Lewis' Woodpeckers continue their presence at the north end of Lake Berryessa this month (BDP). An adult male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was at Ferndale, Humboldt County on 3-21 (DN). This bird was the eastern race (S.v. varius) and is very rare in California compared to the more common Red-breasted (S.v. daggetti) and Red-naped (S.v. nuchallis) races.

Passeriformes

A Western Kingbird was seen in Yolo County on 3-24 (GM). A single Clark's Nutcracker was noted at Fredonyer Meadow on the Honey Lake trip (RROS). Black-capped Chickadees were heard and seen where US 101 crosses Hunter Creek in Del Norte County on 3-21 (DN,WN) and along the Klamath River on 3-24 (GM,KM). Both Canyon and Rock Wrens were noted on Mt St Helena on 3-12 (RH,JS). One

Observations--cont

Mountain Bluebird was at Fredonyer Meadow on 3-20 (RROS). 25-35 Townsend's Solitaires were seen on Mt St Helena on 3-12 (RH,JS), and a rare coastal vagrant reached Bodega Head (HC,RH,SC). The earliest reported Warbling Vireo was at the town of Bodega on 3-27, and a Wilson's Warbler was noted there also (KVV,KC). A bird described as an adult male Painted Redstart was seen twice in February at an active feeder near Monte Rio (SG). It was looked for on other occasions but not seen. A male Yellow-headed Blackbird was at the Dakin Unit of Honey Lake on 3-20 (RROS). Early Northern Orioles reached the Petaluma Sewage Ponds 3-7 (KVV,KC) and Ridgeway Ave, Santa Rosa on 3-12 (H&OC). The earliest Black-headed Grosbeak was in western Petaluma on 3-15 (DN). Evening Grosbeaks were noted with singles at Dakin unit, Honey Lake on 3-20 (RROS) and 1 in Napa on 3-14 (BDP). A White-throated Sparrow was still in Wikiup on 3-16 (B&BR,HC) where it spent the winter.

CONTRIBUTORS: Dr Jack Arnold, Stan Carpenter, Karen Cartier, Hal&Olive Corey, Stephen Gross, Ruth Hawksley, Rick Lebadour, Gerry & Kathy Mugele, Clyde & Wini Nelson, Dan Nelson, Benjamin D Parmeter, RROS, Jean Smith and Kent Van Vuren.

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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 thru May, at 7:30 pm in Room 121 of Darwin Hall, Sonoma State College, Rohnert Park.
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OFFICERS

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