

Kite Tales

MAY

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Vol. 17, No. 9

Sonoma County

1983

COMING ATTRACTIONS

May 12, Thursday, 6 p.m. RROS "Potluck" & General Meeting

Our last get-together until Sept. will be held at the group picnic area at North Campground in Sugarloaf Ridge State Park. Bring your favorite food to share and your own silverware, plates and cups. Plan on dinner about 6 p.m., then a short business meeting followed by owling, poorwilling and lots of fun! Plan to come and bring a friend. There will be no admission charge to RROS members and guests. Hope the rains stop!

Directions: Take Highway 12 from Santa Rosa or Sonoma areas and follow the signs to Kenwood. About $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of Kenwood, turn onto Adobe Canyon Road. Follow this road to the group picnic area at North Campground.

May 14, Saturday, 8 a.m. Bodega Bay Area Field Trip

Meet with field trip leader, Dr. Jack Arnold, at the Tide's upper parking lot at 8 a.m. Bring binoculars, a lunch and a warm jacket.

May 21, Saturday, Pelagic Trip

Join the SRJC Biology class Pelagic field trip to Cordelle Banks. The boat will leave from Sausalito. There are 10 spaces left and the cost will be \$20; \$15 for students. Anyone interested should call Monte Kirven, 542-7512.

Bird Count

Arroyo Cheap Thrills May 22 Contact Kurt Campbell

ELECTION RETURNS

Our new officers were elected at the April meeting. Many thanks to the retiring officers for a job well done. Your new officers are: President -- Dan Nelson; Vice-President -- Rick LeBaudour; Secretary -- Louise Johnston; Treasurer -- ; Field Trips -- Terry Babineaux & Mike Nelligan; Observations -- Dan Nelson; Social -- Bob Rains; Kite Tales -- Wini Nelson; Christmas Count -- Doug Ellis.

DUES

Your 1983-84 Dues are due and payable as of June 1st. \$6.00 for family; \$4.50 for individuals and \$2.00 for students. If we do not have a new treasurer at the May meeting, your dues may be mailed to the president to be forwarded to the new treasurer. Mail to: Dan Nelson, 400 Sunnyslope Ave., Petaluma, CA 94952. Keep receiving your Kite Tales!

FLASH -- Big Day Results

RROS sponsored a group in the National Audubon Birdathon on Saturday, April 30 on their "Big Day". Just thought you might like to hear how they did. Using a small chartered airplane, Dr. L.C. Binford, Roger Tory Peterson, Don Roberson, Jeri Langham, Benjamin D. Parmeter and John Parmeter started at Imperial Dam, then to the north end of the Salton Sea, to Morongo Valley, to Big Bear City & Baldwin Lake to Monterey. They birded the Monterey area by car, ending their long day at midnight after owling Robinson Canyon. Their best bird for the day - a Semipalmated Sandpiper found at the north end of the Salton Sea. Results of their efforts - a total of 236 species: a new National Audubon and State of California record and tied the ABA record (When taking into account their 95% rule). Among the many members of the press was a reporter from Sports Illustrated (in his own small plane), so look for their exciting story in one of the next 2 or 3 issues. Congratulations!

FIELD TRIP RESULTS

8 birders enjoyed a beautiful day at Annadel State Park on Saturday, April 17th tallying 57 species. Some of the highlights of the day were: 12 Band-tailed Pigeons, Pileated Woodpecker (heard only), Hairy Woodpecker (pair at possible nesting site), Bushtits (at nest), Winter Wren (singing), Hutton's Vireo (with fledged young - very early), Solitary Vireo, Black-throated Gray Warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat (early).

NESTING RECORDS

Nesting records as of April 19th for the Santa Rosa or the Sonoma State campus areas: Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Bushtits, Mockingbird, Starling, Scrub Jay and Red-shouldered Hawk. Observers: Dr. Jack Arnold, David Jensen & O.V. Slayden.

OBSERVATIONS -- Dan Nelson (762-6152)

A single Common Merganser was seen flying over Warm Springs Dam on 4/17 (DN). A Black Scoter was noted close to shore inside Bodega Harbor on 4/12 (RH,SC,HC). A Swainson's Hawk was seen near Rio Vista on 4/15 (DN). A Prairie Falcon was seen along Ida Clayton Rd. on 3/26 (HC,DE,TC et al). At least 3 Clapper Rails were heard from the bridge at Hudeman Slough on 3/29 (HC,RH,SC). A flock of 7 Lesser Golden Plovers were noted at the Spaletta Ranch, Pt. Reyes, on 3/23 (BDP,JP). 4 Wandering Tattlers were seen migrating off Bodega Head on 4/24 (B&BR,BDP,LH,HMcG). Reports of (Breeding plumaged) Bonapart's Gulls were numerous throughout the month at areas such as Bodega Bay, Salmon Creek and Black Point (MOB). A total of 14 Blue Grouse (of which only 3 were actually seen) were noted along Rockpile Rd on 4/9 (BDP,JP,PL,LH). 5 male and 3 fem. Sage Grouse were seen on the booming grounds north of Litchfield, Lassen Co. on 3/23 (BDP,BB). An early Vaux's Swift was noted just north of Novato on 3/27 (KC). 3 Pileated Woodpeckers were noted along Rockpile Rd. on 4/9 (JP,BDP,PL,LH), and another was along Franz Valley Rd. on 3/26 (DE,HC,TC,et al).

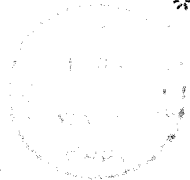
OBSERVATIONS (Cont.)

Western Kingbirds were seen along Rockpile Rd. on 4/17 and an Ash-throated Flycatcher was noted off Dry Creek Rd. also on 4/17 (both Madrone Audubon). An Olive-sided Flycatcher was heard calling in Wikiup on 4/26 (B&BR). A Solitary Vireo was singing along Rockpile Rd. on 4/9 (BDP,JP,LH,PL). The male Black-and-white Warbler was seen again at Stinson Beach State Park on 3/25, and is now in full breeding plumage (BDP,JP). The earliest Yellow-breasted Chat was seen at Annadel on 4/16 (RROS). A single Sharp-tailed Sparrow was at the traditional spot at the mouth of Pine Gulch Creek on 3/25 (BDP,JP). A Sage Sparrow was seen along Ida Clayton Rd. on 4/9 (BDP,JP,LH,PL). The singing White-throated Sparrows at SRJC were last seen on 4/21 (DN) and the one in Wikiup remained until 4/20 (B&BR). A single Lapland Longspur was noted at the Fleming Unit at Honey Lake on 3/23 (BDP,BB).

CONTRIBUTORS: Dr. Jack Arnold, Benton Bosham, Kurt Campbell, Stan Carpenter, Terry Colburn, Hal Corey, Doug Ellis, Ruth Hawksley, Les Hood, Phil Lenna, Herb McGrew, Dan Nelson, Wini Nelson, Benjamin D. Parmeter, John Parmeter, Bob and Bertha Rains.

**Send observations (including earlier dates for spring arrivals) by August 25 to Dan Nelson for the September Kite Tales.

KITE TALES DEADLINE: 25TH OF EACH MONTH Good Birding this summer!



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, Sept. through May, at 7:30 p.m. in Rm 221 of Darwin Hall, Sonoma State College, Rohnert Park.

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OFFICERS

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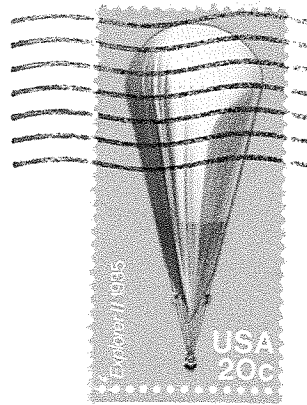
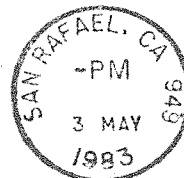
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