

Kite Tales

MAY

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Vol. 18 No. 9 Sonoma County

1984

COMING ATTRACTIONS

May 10, Thursday, 6:00 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. Directions: Take Hwy. 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 Rd. Follow this road to the group picnic area at North Campground. See you there!

May 19, Saturday, 7:30 a.m. Field Trip to Ida Clayton Rd.,

The May field trip will be led by Mike Parmeter. Meet at the intersection of Ida Clayton Road and Hwy 128 at 7:30 a.m. Bring a lunch and a scope, as some of the LBJ's are sometimes uncooperative in the sage brush.

June 3, Sunday, Cheep Thrills Spring Bird Count

For a good time, come on out for the Cheep Thrills Spring Bird Count, Sunday, June 3rd. Using the same count area and format as the "Arroyo Cheep Thrills" Christmas Bird Count (centered in north eastern Marin County), this annual event is unlike Christmastime counts - the weather is traditionally beautiful, and the birds are bright and full of song. The status of our spring and summer birds needs monitoring, and this yearly effort turns up some surprises every time. Mark your calendar and drop a card in the mail or call by May 15th. Don't get egg on your face by missing this fun event! Kurt Campbell, compiler - P.O.Box 268, Cotati, CA 94928; (707)664-0104.

June 17, Sunday, 7:00 a.m., Breeding Bird Class

Doug Ellis will conduct a class on Bird Songs and Bird Nest Finding at Annadel Park. Meet at the Channel Dr. parking lot at 7:00 a.m. This class should be very helpful in compiling information for our Breeding Bird Atlas.

ELECTION RETURNS

Our new officers were elected at the April meeting. Our thanks to the retiring officers for a job well done!! Our new officers are: President -- Kathy Mugele; Vice-president -- Lee Babineaux; Secretary -- Ruth Rudesill; Treasurer -- Don Johnston; Field trips -- Bob McLean; Observations -- Hal Corey; Social -- Shirley Myers; Kite Tales -- Wini Nelson; Christmas Count -- Doug Ellis.

DUES

Your 1984-85 Dues are due and payable as of June 1st. \$7.00 for a family; \$5.50 for individuals and \$3.00 for students. You must pay your dues in order to continue to receive the Kite Tales. Your dues may be mailed to the Treasurer, Don Johnston, 475 Vine Ave., Sebastopol, CA 95472.. Keep receiving your Kite Tales!

ANNOUNCEMENT

All of the photos of Golden-crowned Sparrows that Bob McLean had on display at our April RROS meeting are for sale at Nature's Window.

FIELD TRIP RESULTS - ROCKPILE RD. - April 14

A sunny warm spring day welcomed 25 RROS members and guests (a two group merger) which came together in the Blue Grouse domain. The first male Grouse was spotted high in a fir tree, alongside the road, a dark football-shape, perched quietly. The second male was hooting softly near our lunch stop, in the high hills, also way up in the top of a fir. For over an hour, sharp eyes and binocs tried to locate the bird and did! Both males stirred enough to show the orange comb over the eye - and allowed time for good, long looks by all watchers. Several other Blue Grouse were heard. Besides our target bird, among the species noted were: Black-shouldered Kite, Mt. Quail, Common Snipe, Vaux's Swift, Pileated Woodpecker, Western Kingbird, Tree Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, House Wren, Varied Thrush, Western Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Hutton's Solitary and Warbling Vireos, Orange-crowned and Townsend's Warblers, Brown-headed Cowbird, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Lark Sparrow, Rufous-crowned Sparrow and many more, including a four foot Pacific Rattlesnake-----but no Turkey!

FLASH!!!!...CALIFORNIA "BIG DAY" REPORT -- Sat., April 28

The National Audubon sponsored California "Big Day" Birdathon group, consisting of Don Roberson, Dr. L.C. Binford, Jeri Langham, John and Mike Parmeter took off from Yuma, AR at 12:30 a.m. in a Audubon chartered 6 seat, 2 engine Cessna and by 9 p.m. that evening had covered Imperial Dam, North end of Salton Sea, Big Morongo, Big Bear and Monterey (with a car waiting at each airport) and they now hold a new National Record of 243 species. (Old record-235). (Texas also had a Big Day, but it fell short - 222 species). Some of the

IG DAY REPORT - Cont.

species seen were: Black Rails, Least Bittern, Solitary Sandpiper, Old Squaw, Cassin's Auklet, Williamson's Sapsucker, Swainson's Hawk, Vermilion Flycatcher, Lesser Yellowlegs and Saw-whet Owl.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

OBSERVATIONS -- Dan Nelson (762-6152)

At Bodega Harbor, Brant were at their spring peak numbers with 720 counted on 4/17 (KC). A Blue-winged Teal was noted along Ramal Rd. on 4/25 (DE). Golden Eagle sightings this month were one at Monticello Dam on 4/4 (Madrone Audubon) and 2 imm. birds along Chalk Hill Rd., 4/27 (B&BR). A Merlin was seen at Sebastopol Sewer ponds on 4/1, and Blue Grouse were noted on King Ranch Rd. north of Cazadero the same day (both RM). A North American Dipper was seen along Austin Creek on 4/26 (DE, KC). Of special interest was the male Costa's Hummingbird seen briefly in Rohnert Park on 3/28, its' second occurrence in Sonoma County (KC). A Pileated Woodpecker was noted at Annadel on 4/21 (Madrone Audubon). A Western Kingbird had arrived along Roberts Road on 4/10, and an Olive-sided Flycatcher was on Mt. Tamalpais on 4/21 (both KC). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was along Pine Flat Rd. on 4/27, along with many Warbling and Solitary Vireos (B&BR). An early Solitary Vireo was in Kenwood on 4/5 (DE). A singing Nashville Warbler was found on Mt. Tamalpais on 4/21 (KC). Hermit Warblers were noted along Ten Barn Rd. near Cazadero on 4/26 (DE, KC). Returning Black-throated Gray Warblers and Yellow-breasted Chat were at Annadel on 4/19 (KC). A Hooded Oriole was in Sonoma on 4/25 (DE). A Red Crossbill was noted at the town of Gualala on 4/5 and Grasshopper Sparrows had arrived at Lichau Rd. on 4/15 (both KC). A White-throated Sparrow was in Kenwood on 4/4 (DE), and the White-throated was still in Petaluma as of 4/14 (WN).

CONTRIBUTORS: Kurt Campbell, Hal Corey, Doug Ellis, Richard Merriss, Wini Nelson, Bob & Bertha Rains.

*****Send observations (Including earlier dates for spring arrivals) by August 25 to Hal Corey for the September Kite Tales.

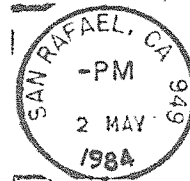
KITE TALES DEADLINE: 25TH OF EACH MONTH Good Birding this Summer!!

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 University, Rohnert Park.

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OFFICERS

President Kathy Mugele 15420 Woodside, Glen Ellen, CA 95442 938-2134
Vice-President Lee Babineaux 2277 Crane Canyon Rd., Santa Rosa, CA 95404 584-5209
Secretary Ruth Rudesill P.O.Box 371 Kenwood, CA 95452 833-6026
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