

Kite Tales

APRIL

REDWOOD REGION ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Volume 20, No. 8

Sonoma County

1986

COMING ATTRACTIONS

April 10, Thursday, 7:30 PM - General Meeting

The Environmental Forum's excellent slide show, "Perspective on the Laguna de Santa Rosa," will be presented by John Klobas, educator and naturalist. This show was put together by Peter Vilms and has won considerable praise.

Joining in this evening's program will be Fish and Game Biologist Bill Cox, an expert on freshwater fisheries. He will speak of these and, most particularly, the Laguna de Santa Rosa.

April 11 - 13, Friday - Sunday, Field Trip to Humboldt Bay

Ruth Rudesill, who will lead this trip, is going up Friday morning. She will be birding Arcata Marsh this day. To join her, take the Samoa Blvd exit in Arcata; take a left turn on "Coastal Access" to the Nature Conservancy plot. That's where Ruth should be.

Ruth will be camping at Patrick's Point State Park, north on Hwy 101 past Trinidad. This is where she will meet all the group at 8:45 AM Saturday. Birding this day will be mainly shorebirds and waterbirds. On Sunday, Ruth plans to go inland a short distance to Horse Mountain Ski Resort in search of Blue Grouse and the songbirds in spring migration.

April 26, Saturday - Field Trip to Ida Clayton Road

Mike Parmeter will meet the group at 8 AM at the junction of Hwy 128 and Ida Clayton Road. The mountain road is narrow, so carpool as compactly as possible. The day should produce California Thrasher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, perhaps a Golden Eagle...who knows?

May 31, Saturday - Field Trip to Bouverie Audubon Preserve

John Petersen, Resident Biologist at the Preserve, will lead the hike through the savannahs and woodland of this beautiful property. The waterfall at the head of the canyon should be roaring and the birds in full song.

Field Trips Chairman Richard Merriss has said that a Central Valley trip in early May or June is a possibility. The members can discuss it at the April meeting.

Nominating Committee members Jack Arnold, Deyea Harper and Richard Merriss will make their report at the April meeting.

FIELD TRIP TO HONEY LAKE on March 8 was stormed out.

However, Mike and John Parmeter, Jack Arnold and Roger Marlowe got up there March 22-23 and had great success. They report observing 12 male Sage Grouse booming at their lek. Dr. Arnold further reports that the dawn hour was not as cold as usual. And that the Litchfield Hotel is no more!

The men saw a pair of Sandhill Cranes at Honey Lake and three Short-eared Owls. At the Janesville Grade they found Red Crossbills, both male and female, and about 200 Evening Grosbeaks and a Clark's Nutcracker.

They met Rich Bertoli at Honey Lake, and he told them about a Three-toed Woodpecker over at Eagle Lake. So they went over there, and there it was!

OBSERVATIONS - Hal Corey (542-8429)

2/9- Gray Lodge Refuge Area: American Bittern, Rough-legged Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, 20 Mountain Plovers, 3 Long-eared Owls (Sutter County), 15 Mountain Bluebirds (West Butte Rd), Vesper Sparrow (West Butte Rd), Tree Swallows (BDP, JA).

2/15-Sonoma State U. Campus: Ferruginous Hawk (DA); Rodeo Lagoon: Harlequin Duck (C. MacM). 2/24-Channel Dr: Wood Ducks, Clark's Grebe (TB)
2/28-Lake Ralphine: Orange-crowned Warbler, Wrentit, Osprey fishing (H&OC).

On a trip to Southern California, Faye Beeman stopped at San Pedro and saw on 2/27 Cooper's Hawk, American Bittern, Spotted Dove, Phainopepla, and a Budgerigar. On 3/6 he was at Anza Borrego Desert and saw White-winged Dove, Black-throated Sparrow, Roadrunner, Cactus Wren, Verdin. The next day he visited Salton Sea and observed 9 White Pelicans and Black-necked Stilt.

After their weekend at Honey and Eagle Lakes, John and Mike Parmeter put in a couple of more days of concentrated birding around Sonoma County and the Delta. On 3/24 up Rock Pile Rd, they found Blue Grouse, a male and a female, and a Pileated Woodpecker. Heading south towards Bodega, they spotted 3 Pomarine Jaegers: 2 off Duncan's Landing and one off School House Beach. At the new Marina near Spud Point they saw an Old Squaw in Bodega Harbor. The next day they went over to Stockton, observed 3 Little Gulls, in winter adult plumage, at the sewer ponds. Near Lodi they saw a pair of Swainson's Hawks.

Clarence Wolcott just returned in March from a trip to Costa Rica, where he saw something like 400 species. Some of the more remarkable that he noted were Jabiru, King Vulture, Swallow-tailed Kite, Crested Caracara, Double-striped Thick-knee, Squirrel Cuckoo, Smooth-billed Ani, Chachalaca, Collared Forest-falcon, Black Guan, Purple Gallinule, Wood Stork, White-crested Coquette, Resplendent Quetzal, Northern Jacana, Common Parakeet.

Observers: Dr. J. R. Arnold, Dick Ashford, Terry Babineaux, Faye Beeman, Hal & Olive Corey, Carol MacMillan, John & Benjamin D. Parmeter, Clarence Wolcott.

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS

April 1 is the date observations can begin officially for the Sonoma County Breeding Bird Atlas. Coordinator Betty Burrige said at the March RROS meeting that sightings of breeding bird behavior at this early date may be casual - that is, not necessarily within the observer's assigned block; perhaps the backyard birds - but should note exact location. This is very important! She passed out forms to use when noting "Birds in Other Areas".

Blocks for Breeding Bird observations will be assigned at an orientation meeting on Saturday, April 5. Maps and instructions will be provided the 30 current volunteers at that time.

Anyone not yet registered for the Breeding Bird Atlas and who would like to be active in this project can reach Betty Burrige at 527-0225.

All RROS and Audubon members can help enormously with this project if they are themselves landowners or know landowners of ranch, hill or back-country land and can obtain permission for a pair of volunteers to survey the property for breeding birds. The county is vast, and permission to go onto private property is essential to the success of the Breeding Bird Atlas.

So please help us in this way if you can. A call to Betty or a note to her address at 963 Crest Drive, Santa Rosa CA 95404 would do very well!

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 through May, at 7:30 PM, in Room 221 of Darwin Hall, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA 94928.

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OFFICERS

President - Kathy Mugele, 15420 Woodside, Glen Ellen, 95442	938-2134
Vice-President - Janet Bosshard, 434 Hendley St, Santa Rosa 95404	526-5883
Secretary - Ruth Rudesill, PO Box 371, Kenwood 95452	833-6026
Treasurer - Don Johnston, 475 Vine Ave, Sebastopol 95472	823-2245
Field Trips - Richard Merriss, 2046 Hearn Ave, Santa Rosa 95401	525-8629
Observations - Hal Corey, 422 Ridgeway, Santa Rosa 95401	542-8429
Social - Shirley Myers, 4815 Valley Quail Lane, Santa Rosa 95401	823-9512
KITE TALES - Jean Smith, 519 Sunnyvale Dr, Healdsburg 95448	433-2542
Christmas Count - Doug Ellis, PO Box 155, Eldridge 95431	833-4344