

# Kite Tales



Redwood Region Ornithological Society

Volume 35 Number V

January 2001

## Coming Attractions

January 11th, Thursday, 7:30 PM - General Meeting  
Administration Building, Laguna Waste Water Treatment Plant  
4300 Llano Road, Santa Rosa (see map on page 5 of our November edition)

### The Members Share-Your-Slides Night

Once again it's time for our annual do-it-yourself program. Bring a selection of your most interesting slides of birds, birders, vistas, The subject of your photos could be identifiable birds, mystery birds, people, plants, critters, or places we've been on RROS field trips, etc. Bring anything that you think is worthy of sharing with the RROS membership. This precludes those snapshots of Grandma at the Christmas party.

January 20th, Saturday  
Field Trip to Lake Berryessa, Napa County

Meet north of Santa Rosa at the park-and-ride on River Road just west of US101. Meeting time is 7:30 am. We will car pool from here to Lake Berryessa, where we'll explore the lake and surrounding woodlands starting at the north end. If time allows, we'll end up at Monticello Dam. Winter possibilities for this area include Bald Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Lewis' Woodpecker, Canyon Wren, and Yellow-billed Magpie. Bring binoculars, scopes, field guides, lunch, water, and warm clothes. Leader is Alan Wight.

Call Alan at (707) 763-8572 if you have any questions. Heavy rain cancels.

### January 20th, Saturday - Observations Deadline

The 20th is our deadline for Kite Tales observations. Please forward sightings to Ned Wynn 129-B Powell Ave. Healdsburg, Ca 95448 707 431-8412 or via email: ekwynn@pon.net

### January 25th, Thursday - Kite Tales Deadline

Send announcements, articles, complaints, trivia, errata, letters to the editor and such to Gerry Mugele PO Box 813 Glen Ellen, Ca 95442 or via email: mewgull@ix.netcom.com

**Good Birding Spots ??**

Notice anything missing?

Yup, we have no "Good Birding Spot" article this month. These pieces are very helpful to beginning birders and to birders new to the area. RROS members are certainly among the most knowledgeable about the best places to bird in Sonoma County and environs and we should share the wealth. Kite Tales wants YOU.

You can contribute by doing the very thing you enjoy. Go bird one of your favorite places and make a few notes about the area. Give Ted Eliot a call at 707 935-3410 and we'll make you a feature writer.

We thank those that have already contributed over the past two and a half years, and encourage you experienced journalists to give it another go as well.

**Ruth Rudesill's 650th**

No not her birthday... it's her report on her 650th ABA sighting.

I just came back from Washington State and yesterday had a great New Years! After two tries (2 hour round trip from my sister's house in southern Washington to the mouth of the Columbia River on the Oregon side) I finally saw the bird that has been eluding me (and California) for over 20 years - the Snowy Owl! This was bird #650 for me in ABA area.

The bird had been originally seen at the tip of the Clatsop Spit in heavy beach grass and stunted conifers but with New Years, people had scared it away. I was told it had flown off 2 hours before we arrived. So I missed it on the first try.

My sister and I went back on New Years morning. We searched the spit but no luck and no other birders were there. We then went to the South Jetty parking area and found some other birders. The first one I asked said "Oh, it's on the beach. I just saw it" I ran to the beach but found nothing in the dunes area.

Then my sister saw two birders looking toward the surf. I assumed that they were looking for pelagics or something else but hiked toward them.

Then a large snow white bird flew up from the

Then a large snow white bird flew up from the beach and landed just on top of the sand off the breakers. He was beautiful and right in front of us!

As my sister and I celebrated a man approached me and said "Nice Barn Owl, huh?" I turned as I recognized the voice - it was Dan Nelson!

He had been there earlier and got, hopefully, great photos. I hope they turn out.

Anyway, if you are thinking of chasing or know someone who is: The bird is located at Ft. Stevens State Park in Oregon near Warrenton across from Astoria from the east or north from Seaside. There is no entrance fee. Follow the road in until the South Jetty turns to the left where there is a large parking lot. The bird was on the beach north of the jetty but has been seen in the dunes all the way around the spit to the Columbia River side.

Happy New Year! Ruth

**Jack Arnold's Memorial****RROS is accepting Donations**

Donations in memory of Dr. Jack Arnold may be made out to RROS and sent to Treasurer Mike Nelligan, 124 Wikiup Dr., Santa Rosa CA 95403.

The Biology Department at Sonoma State University is planning a permanent memorial on campus using donations from Jack's many friends and former students. Funds collected through RROS will be contributed for this cause when the plans are finalized.

At the same time, Jack's daughter-in-law, Judy Spotswood, is also planning a private permanent memorial, a bench to be placed on private property with public access near the corner of Hwy 116 and Occidental Road. Money contributed to the RROS Memorial Fund for Jack may be used for this bench as well.

It has been 5 months since Jack died. We remember him well as a founder and staunch supporter of RROS, an exceptional educator, scientist and friend. And we want everyone else to know and remember what a fine man he was.

**Observations**

<u>Species</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Laysan Albatross	1	12/26	Pt. Arena	MEN	KW, BO, D&BH	
✓ Tundra Swan	1	12/03	Russian Riv, Bridgehaven	SON	SON	LP
✓ Blue-winged Teal	4	12/11	Shollenberger Park	SON	TE, GM	
Green-winged Teal	3	12/03	Enterprise Rd, Bennett Vly	SON	SON	KF
✓ Ring-necked Duck	4	12/03	Russian Riv, Bridgehaven	SON	SON	LP pair & 2 juv.
" " "	19	12/03	Enterprise Rd, Bennett Vly	SON	SON	KF
✓ Harlequin Duck	3	12/27	The Sea Ranch	SON	KW, BO, D&BH	
✓ Barrow's Goldeneye	2	12/23	Petaluma River Mouth	SON	AW	
✓ " " "	2	1/03	Petaluma River Mouth	SON	BDP	
Hooded Merganser	4	12/03	Enterprise Rd, Bennett Vly	SON	SON	KF 2 pair
✓ Bald Eagle	2	12/23	Russian Riv. Healdsburg	SON	DD	
Snail Kite	2	12/15	Loxahatchee WR	Fla	EKW	males
✓ Ferruginous Hawk	4	12/25	Carmody Road Ponds	SON	KW, BO	
✓ " "	1	12/25	Bloomfield Rd	SON	KW, BO	
✓ Rough-legged Hawk	1	12/25	Carmody Road Ponds	SON	KW, BO	
✓ " "	2	12/28	Bodega Farm Pond	SON	KW, BO	
✓ " "	1	12/28	Bayhill Road	SON	KW, BO	
✓ " "	1	1/1	Bodega Farm Pond	SON	KW, BO	
Merlin	1	12/28	Bodega Farm Pond	SON	KW, BO	
"	1	12/29	Shollenberger Park	SON	RL, GM	
"	1	1/1	Bodega Farm Pond	SON	KW, BO	
Peregrine Falcon	2	12/28	Bodega Farm Pond	SON	KW, BO	1m. 1f.
" "	1	12/28	Bodega Bay	SON	KW, BO	
" "	1	12/30	Fitzpatrick Lane	SON	GM, DNr, MR, LR	
✓ Prairie Falcon	1	1/1	Freestone-Valley Ford Rd	SON	SON	KW, BO
Common Snipe	1	12/03	Enterprise Rd, Bennett Vly	SON	SON	KF
" "	43	12/07	N. McDowell Extension	SON	KF	
Smooth-billed Ani	3	12/13	Loxahatchee WR	Fla	EKW	
Snowy Owl	1	1/1	Ft. Stevens SP	Ore	DN, RR	
✓ Short-eared Owl	3	12/23	Reclamation Road	SON	AW	
✓ " " "	2	12/23	Bodega Head	SON	RL	
✓ " " "	3	1/1	Bodega Head	SON	DNr, MR, PL	
Tree Swallow	8	11/26	South end Sonoma Mtn	SON	TE	
Townsend's Solitaire	1	12/19	Mt. St. Helena, S. Peak	NAP	IM	

**Observers:**

Debra Drew, Ted Eliot, Kathy Francone, Diane & Bryant Hichwa, Rick Lebaudour, Peter Leveque, Ian Morrison, Gerry Mugele, Dan Nelson, Dan Noreen (DNr), Becky Olsen, Mike Parmeter (BDP), Linda Petrulias, Lilly Reichert, Mary Rooney, Ruth Rudesill, Alan Wight, Ken Wilson, Ned Wynn (EKW)

Redwood Region Ornithological Society was organized in 1962 "to encourage the study and conservation of birds, other wildlife, and their natural habitat." Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month, September through May. Regular general meetings (October through April) are held at 7:30 PM at the Laguna Waste Water Treatment Plant, 4300 Llano Road, Santa Rosa, California. Dues are \$15 per family, \$8 per individual, or \$3 per student for one year membership. Send dues to the treasurer shown below.

**2000 - 2001 Officers:**

President: Betty Groce, 411 Trail Ridge Ct., Santa Rosa CA 95409-6482 707 539-8664  
E-Mail: [blgroce @ Prodigy.net](mailto:blgroce@Prodigy.net)

Vice President: Ken Wilson, 8 Pine Tree Circle., Cotati, CA 94931 707 795-7547  
(net impaired)

Secretary: Bertha Rains, 450A Las Casitas, Santa Rosa, CA 95403-1383 707 528-6785  
E-Mail: [bbr@ap.net](mailto:bbr@ap.net)

Treasurer: Mike Nelligan, 124 Wikiup Drive, Santa Rosa CA 95403-7700 707 576-1475  
E-Mail: [bandm@monitor.net](mailto:bandm@monitor.net)

**2000 - 2001 Chairs:**

Field Trips: Alan Wight, 19 Wooddale Dr., Petaluma CA 94952 707 763-8572  
E-Mail: [shwand@sonic.net](mailto:shwand@sonic.net)

Observations: Ned Wynn, 129-B Powell Ave., Healdsburg CA 95448-3413 707 431-8412  
E-Mail: [ekwynn@pon.net](mailto:ekwynn@pon.net)

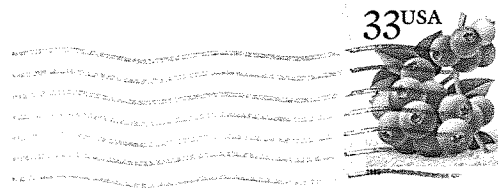
Social: Barbara Gumtow, 7915 Bella Vista Dr., Sebastopol CA 95472-2701 707 823-7869

Christmas Count: Doug Ellis, PO Box 776, Kenwood CA 95452-0776

Good Birding Spots: Ted Eliot, 5850 Grove St., Sonoma CA 95476-6095 707 935-3410  
E-Mail: [patted@sonic.net](mailto:patted@sonic.net)

Kite Tales: Gerry Mugele, PO Box 813, Glen Ellen, Ca 95442-0813 707 938-2134  
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