



The Western Grebe

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

www.redbudaudubon.org

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Bird Identification is topic for December Audubon meeting

The December monthly meeting for the Redbud Audubon Society will be the traditional Bird Identification program. This is a popular program and is great for both beginners and veterans of birding. It is a wonderful way to get ready to participate in the upcoming Christmas Bird count scheduled for Saturday, December. 19.

DECEMBER MEETING

Thursday, Dec. 17

- * Bird Identification Program presented by Brad Barnwell in preparation for upcoming Christmas Bird Count
- * Refreshments: 7 pm
Announcements: 7:15 pm
Program: 7:30 pm
- * Glebe Social Hall, St. Peter's Catholic Church, 4085 Main St., Kelseyville

The Bird Identification program, presented by local photographer and naturalist, Brad Barnwell, is a great way to learn about the common and not-so-common birds of Lake County, especially if you are planning to participate in the Bird Count. Even if you are not participating in the bird count, learning about common birds is very fun and gratifying.

Brad Barnwell will give a power point presentation featuring amazing images of many of Lake County's birds. The program emphasizes the field characteristics of birds likely to be seen during the count.

The Redbud Audubon Society has been holding its annual Christmas Bird Count for decades; this year is the 41st annual CBC for Redbud Audubon.

Redbud Audubon invites all birders and nature enthusiasts to join in the upcoming Christmas

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Northern Flickers are often spotted on the local Christmas Bird Count.



Bonaparte's Gulls are numerous on Clear Lake right now.

President's Message

by Roberta Lyons

Why I support National Audubon And why I hope you do too!

I recently received the Annual Report for "Audubon," or what we used to call "National Audubon." It is a beautiful magazine-style publication outlining the many accomplishments of this venerable organization: everything from tracking the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) data to releasing the Climate Change Initiative report of 2014.

As many people know, Audubon was founded in the late 1800s with the initial goal of stopping the senseless slaughter of millions of egrets and herons for the hat trade. In fact, it was high-brow society women who helped to start the movement – calling on their friends, neighbors, and society club members to think about the consequences of the feathered hats they were wearing.

I often hear complaints from fellow members and board members about National Audubon. Membership notices start appearing 6 months before membership is due; people don't like receiving the magazine though it only comes out a few times a year. The magazine is too depressing. Every time you turn around another species is in danger.

As president of a small chapter, I have myself been guilty of complaining about "National." Over the years they continue to cut back on our share of membership dues which has made it more difficult for us to stay solvent. (When you join National Audubon, you automatically become a member of the local chapter near you). If you are an Audubon leader there is a constant barrage of emails with suggestions from "higher ups," on what you should be doing. I usually just delete them while cursing under my breath. "Isn't it enough that we are keeping the chapter going?" I ask, "Let alone trying to save the Greater Sage-Grouse in Nevada."

In the old days we enjoyed a fabulous Audubon Regional Conference at Asilomar in Pacific Grove. The conference brought small chapters from all over California together to listen to major conservation leaders from New York, Washington DC and California. It was fun. It also is no more. Sometimes it appears that "National," just keeps taking things away and offering the small chapters less.

So, we find ourselves asking, what has Audubon done for us lately? Why shouldn't we encourage people to join our local club for \$25 instead of the annual \$35 required by National Audubon?

Looking through the annual report gives me an idea of why we should continue to encourage membership in National Audubon. I have to remind myself, "Wait a minute. It isn't all about us on a local level. It is about the big picture. Is Redbud Audubon going to have a meaningful impact on the big decision makers in Washington or Sacramento? Would we be able to keep accurate compilations of bird count data from the CBC and the Big Backyard Bird Count? What about lobbying our representatives and forming important partnerships in Latin America to protect valuable habitat for our wintering birds?

National Audubon's work on climate change is phenomenal. Audubon's Birds and Climate Change Report details how climate change will affect North American bird populations through 2080, using carefully worked-out models.

Audubon scientists are using cutting-edge mapping techniques, to survey the wintering habitats of Piping Plovers and other shorebirds; they are tracking songbirds in the Sagebrush Steppe in Washington in collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and have launched a citizen science-based survey of the sagebrush ecosystem called the Sagebrush Songbird Survey. Audubon supports many conservation efforts in California as well, like the effort to save the Tri-colored Blackbird that we recently learned about at a local chapter meeting.

Audubon has a huge network, from State programs, to Audubon Centers, to local chapters like ours, to Audubon Sanctuaries. They collaborate with conservation organizations world-wide.

The National Audubon Society is worth supporting. It is an important world-wide conservation organization with an impressive history. Please remember this and continue to support them along with your local Redbud Audubon Society. Together we can make a difference.

Anderson Marsh State Historic Park field trip



Kathy Barnwell, Brad Barnwell, and Doug Prather at the recent Anderson Marsh State Historic Park field trip. Field trip leader Pat Harmon reported there were 25 people, including 15 students from Clear Lake High School. The “weather was glorious,” Harmon reports and they had a good viewing of Phainopeplas. Other high points were the Black-shouldered Kite, White and Golden-crowned Sparrows, a Lincoln Sparrow and many other birds.



Both adults and youth enjoyed the November field trip at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park.



Vivian McFarling, Susanne Scholz and Marina Vedovi enjoyed the November field trip at Anderson Marsh State Park. Forty-five species were seen and a large group attended, including many students from Mr. Dominguez’s class at Clear Lake High School.

Welcome new and returning members

Welcome new and returning members: Betty Taylor of Clearlake; Christina Hauswald of Kelseyville; Robin Chapman of Kelseyville and Nikki Copus of Middletown.

REDBUD AUDUBON BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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**To contact a board member:
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Redbud Audubon to participate in annual Christmas Bird Count on December 19

This year, the annual Clear Lake Christmas Bird Count, held by the Redbud Audubon Society, will be on Saturday, Dec. 19. The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is a traditional project of Audubon societies around the country and takes place between Dec. 14 and Jan. 5.

Each December birders gather to record every individual bird and species encountered during the day. Each count group has a designated circle of 15 miles in diameter and tries to cover as much ground as possible within a certain period of time.

The data collected by each count group are then sent to the National Audubon Headquarters in New York and is made available online.

Redbud Audubon invites all birders and nature enthusiasts to join in the upcoming Christmas Bird Count. Birders of all skill levels are encouraged to participate. This is Audubon's longest running wintertime tradition and is the 41st year the Count has taken place in Lake County. There will be two main groups that participants might wish to join – one will meet at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park and the other will meet at the Visitor's Center Parking lot at the Clear Lake State Park. Both groups will meet at 8 a.m. and continue through to early or mid-afternoon.

After the count, participants are invited to a pizza dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Kelseyville Pizza on State Street in Kelseyville to join in the count compilation where the tally of the day's sightings is compiled.

Previous to the bird count, at the Thursday Dec. 17, meeting at Glebe Hall (next to St. Peter's Catholic Church, 4085 Main Street, Kelseyville) Brad Barnwell will present an extensive slide show and discussion of distinguishing features of birds that are often seen during the annual count. The meeting is open to the public and visitors are encouraged to attend. It starts at 7 p.m.

If you are interested in participating in the bird count, call (707) 263-8030, leave a message with your phone number, and someone will return your call.

The Christmas Bird Count began more than a century ago when 27 conservationists in 25 localities, led by scientist and writer Frank Chapman, changed the course of ornithological history.

On Christmas Day in 1900, the small group posed an alternative to the "side hunt," a Christmas day activity in which teams competed to see who could shoot the most birds and small mammals. Instead, Chapman proposed to identify, count, and record all the birds they saw, founding what is now considered to be the world's most significant citizen-based con-



Pileated Woodpecker



Great Horned Owl

servation effort – and century-old institution.

Scientists rely on the remarkable trend data of Audubon's CBC to better understand how birds and the environment are faring throughout North America – and what needs to be done to protect them. Data from Audubon's signature Citizen Science program are at the heart of numerous peer-reviewed scientific studies.

With all of the issues, including climate change and habitat loss, facing both local bird species and birds worldwide, there is no time like the present to start getting involved in local bird conservation and educating yourself about the numerous bird species we have right here in Lake County; the annual Christmas Bird Count is a fun way of doing this.



The American Kestrel is just one of many birds that may be seen during the Christmas Bird Count.



Black-crowned Night Heron

Field Trip Calendar 2015-16

Following is the field trip calendar for the Redbud Audubon Society for 2015/16. Prior to each field trip a description will appear in the *Western Grebe* and on our website with more information about the upcoming outing. You can also call Pat Harmon at (707) 263-4977 for information. Outings start at 9 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

Dec. 19 – Christmas Bird Count

Jan. 16 – Colusa and Sacramento National Wildlife Refuges

Feb. 20 – Clear Lake State Park, Kelseyville

March 19 – Highland Springs Reservoir

April 23 – Laguna de Santa Rosa. Hwy. 12 near Sebastopol

May – Heron Festival - TBA

Bird Identification is topic for December meeting

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Bird Count; all skill levels are encouraged to participate.

If you are interested in participating in the bird count, call (707) 263-8030, leave a message with your phone number, and someone will return your call. After the count, participants are invited to a pizza dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Kelseyville Pizza on State Street in Kelseyville to join in the count compilation where the tally of the day's sightings is compiled.

Many thanks to Darlene Hecomovich

Darlene Hecomovich has been a long-time member of the Redbud Audubon Society and is one of our most dedicated volunteers. For close to 10 years Darlene has organized our annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC), taking over that project from Jerry White, another long-standing Redbud Audubon volunteer. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Darlene for her many years of service as she hands over the organization of the CBC to Brad and Kathy Barnwell. Thank you Darlene; we look forward to continuing to enjoy your company and your expertise at our many Redbud Audubon birding events and outings. Also, thank you to Brad and Kathy for taking over the CBC, which is an important citizen science project providing valuable data to scientists world-wide.

Would you like to receive the Western Grebe by email?

If you have looked at our newsletter, The Western Grebe, on our website where it is published in color, you probably have noticed how great it looks! If you send us your email, we can add you to our email list to send you the Grebe newsletter every month so you can enjoy the beautiful photos and graphics in color. Also, receiving the Grebe by email provides a substantial savings to the Redbud Audubon Society as we do not have to pay the mailing cost. Please let us know if you would prefer to receive your grebe electronically and we will take you off of our "hard," mailing list and add you to our email list to receive the Grebe. If we already have your email, but have not heard from you that you would like to receive the Grebe by email instead of through the mail, please let us know!!! You can accomplish this by emailing us at redbud.audubon@gmail.com. Thank you!

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Redbud Audubon Society

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

National Audubon New Member Introductory Rate \$20 for 1 year

- ☐ **YES** Enroll me in both the **National Audubon Society** and local chapter **Redbud Audubon**, start my subscription to ***Audubon Magazine***, and ***The Western Grebe***, and send me my membership card.
- ☐ I would like to subscribe to ***The Western Grebe*** only, for \$20.
- ☐ From time to time, National Audubon may share its mailing list with other environmental organizations. If you do not wish to be contacted, please check this box.

- ☐ Save paper! Send my newsletter by email only.
- ☐ Notify me by email about upcoming events.
- ☐ Contact me when volunteers are needed.

My Email Address is:

- ☐ In addition to my membership, I would like to make a contribution to the local work of Redbud Audubon Society: ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other: _____

Name _____ **Phone:** _____

Mailing Address _____ **City** _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Please make check payable to Redbud Audubon Society.

Mail your application and check to POB 5780, Clearlake, CA 95422

Thank you for supporting Redbud Audubon Society

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