



The Western Grebe

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

www.redbudaudubon.org

Volume 42—Issue No. 4—DECEMBER 2016

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, Dec. 17.

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 fun and gratifying.

DECEMBER MEETING

Thursday, December 15

- * 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 Street, Kelseyville

The Redbud Audubon Society has been holding its annual Christmas Bird Count for decades; this year is the 42nd annual CBC for Redbud Audubon.

Redbud Audubon invites all birders and nature enthusiasts to join in the upcoming Christmas Bird Count; all skill levels are encouraged to partici-

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



If you are lucky, you might see a Red-breasted Nuthatch on the CBC, Dec. 17. This little beauty is usually seen in the higher elevations around Lake County, but have been spotted in other areas too.



The Western Bluebird is one of many charming songbirds that most likely will be seen on the upcoming CBC. Photos by Brad Barnwell.

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President's Message

by Co-President Bonnie Thompson

I hope everyone has had a wonderful Thanksgiving. As I sit at SFO headed back East for the holiday, I am thinking about the crowds and traffic I will face in the DC area and realize what makes me appreciate living in Lake County. However, my first birding experiences were in my backyard in Virginia, followed by my joining other birding enthusiasts on trails I never knew existed in Fairfax County and so it goes....

Many of you are fortunate to have feeders that attract numerous birds native to California and I know many of you have enjoyed the bird walks hosted by Redbud Audubon as well as our friends at the Lake County Land Trust and at Anderson Marsh. I know I have enjoyed starting off the New Year with the Anderson Marsh "First Day Hike".

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) to be held Dec. 17 is just one more fun and educational activity hosted by our Redbud Audubon chapter. Please see the article on the fascinating history and the importance of this endeavor.

In January, you may be interested in an annual event hosted by the Altacal Chapter of Audubon in Chico -- The 18th Annual Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway, January 25-29. More information can be found at www.snowgoosefestival.org.

In February, consider participating in the annual Backyard Bird Count. Look for information in our January newsletter. Joyce Anderson and Lisa Prather, our educational committee, have reached out to three elementary schools who will participate in a birding unit as well as in the Backyard Bird Count. It gives me great joy to see the enthusiasm of today's youth as well as that of my granddaughter as she continues to learn about birds.

The Hidden Valley Lake continues to amaze me with its abundance of waterfowl (and I don't mean Canada Geese!) as well as other birds. It makes for an interesting "backyard bird count".

I hope you can join us at our December meeting when Brad and Kathy Barnwell get us ready to identify birds and to prepare us for the upcoming Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 17.

Happy Holidays to each of you!



*American White Pelicans may be seen on the CBC.
Photo by Barbara Bridges.*

Redbud Audubon to participate in Christmas Bird Count Dec. 17

This year, the annual Clear Lake Christmas Bird Count, held by the Redbud Audubon Society, will be on Saturday, Dec. 17. 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 period of time. Data collected by each 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 39th 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. 15, 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 often seen during the annual count. The meeting is open to the public and visitors are encouraged. It starts at 7 p.m.

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Annual Christmas Bird Count

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If you are interested in participating in the 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 conservation event.

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. 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.

Meet one of Redbud’s new volunteers: Bonnie Thompson

Bonnie Thompson is currently serving as co-president of Lake County’s Redbud Audubon Society chapter. A resident of Hidden Valley Lake since 2008, she is a transplant from Northern Virginia where she taught business and information technology for 34 years at the high school level and was very active in her teacher associations serving on several boards. Her business and computer background has



Bonnie Thompson

also turned into a “hobby” as she has taken on the chapter website.

She considers herself a novice bird enthusiast and states she is grateful to the many patient and experienced birders who continue to “take her under their wing”.

She has come to love living in Lake County and watching her granddaughter grow. She is torn between two coasts as her husband and two sons still reside back east. For the time being, she plans to be around a bit longer. Thank you for joining us Bonnie!

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To contact a board member:

Phone 707/ 263-8030

Email: redbud.audubon@gmail.com



Acorn Woodpeckers are often seen in Lake County and are a popular bird here.

Anderson Marsh State Historic Park to hold New Year's Day Walk as Part of the National "First Day Hikes" Program

The Anderson Marsh Interpretive Assoc. (AMIA) will host a New Year's Day walk at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park. The guided nature walk will begin at noon on New Year's Day.

This will be a leisurely walk that will cover about 5 miles of mainly flat terrain and should take between 3 and 3½ hours. Participants are welcome to walk part way and make an early return at their own pace.

Participants should bring water and snacks and binoculars if they have them, and wear sturdy shoes and a hat. Rain will cancel the walk. Anderson Marsh State Historic Park is located on Hwy 53, between Lower Lake and Clearlake. For more information about the walk, email info@andersonmarsh.org or call (707) 995-2658

The 18th Annual Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway January 25 – 29

This action-packed 5-day event in Chico, celebrates the remarkable journey of millions of waterfowl and raptors along the Pacific Flyway that call the Northern Sacramento Valley their home during the winter months. The festival is located in an amazingly diverse area, with habitats that include rivers and wetlands, sweeping plains and grasslands, rolling foothills, sheltered canyons and mountain peaks. Attendees can choose from over 60 field trips and workshops that are sure to please a wide variety of interests and ability levels. Learn about nature photography, bird carving, how to record nature sounds, how to identify those backyard birds, and much more. Free nature activities are offered for youth, as well as armchair adventures for all. Special Guest & Keynote Speaker: International bird guide and author, Alvaro Jaramillo.

For more info visit www.snowgoosefestival.org or contact Jennifer Patten, Event Coordinator at (530)345-1865.

Field Trip Calendar 2016-2017

Following is the field trip calendar for the Redbud Audubon Society for 2016/17. 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.

December 17 - CBC

January 21

Colusa and Sacramento
National Wildlife Refuges.

February 18

Bodega Bay

March 18

Clear Lake State Park – Kelseyville

April 22 – McKerricher State Park,
Fort Bragg

May – Heron Days

Photos by Brad Barnwell



Snow Egrets often grace the shoreline here.



Red-tailed Hawks are a common sighting in Lake County.

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pate. 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.



If participants are lucky, they may see a Pileated Woodpecker.



White-breasted Nuthatch are often seen in the oak woodlands of Lake County.

Redbud Audubon
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National Audubon/Redbud Audubon Joint Membership Application

New Member Introductory Rate — \$20 for the first 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*** chapter newsletter.
- ☐ 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 printing and mailing costs by sending my newsletter to my email address.
- ☐ I want to receive the newsletter by regular mail, but please email notifications to me.

My Email Address is:

- ☐ In addition to my membership, I would like to make a contribution to the local work of Redbud Audubon Society:
____ \$10 ____ \$20 ____ \$50 ____ \$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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