



The Western Grebe

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

www.redbudaudubon.org

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“A Bird’s Rainbow” is the topic of November’s Redbud Audubon program

We are pleased to welcome Bob Lewis to our November meeting. The title of Bob’s talk is: “A Bird’s Rainbow,” and is a look at the fascinating mysteries of the color of birds.

Many birds are brightly colored, others use patterned feathers for camouflage. How do these colors originate? What’s the difference between colors from pigments and physical colors? From Yellow warblers to Anna’s Hummingbirds, from Snow Geese to Brewer’s Blackbirds, each species makes unique use of the feather colors it possesses. What do the colors indicate to other birds? And do birds see the same colors we do? Bob will unravel some of the mysteries of

color in birds with a little chemistry, a bit of physics, and a lot of brightly colored slides.

Bob trained as a chemist and worked for Chevron for 33 years. He’s taught birding classes in the Bay Area for over 20 years, and served as the chair of Golden Gate Audubon’s Adult

NOVEMBER MEETING

Thursday, November 17

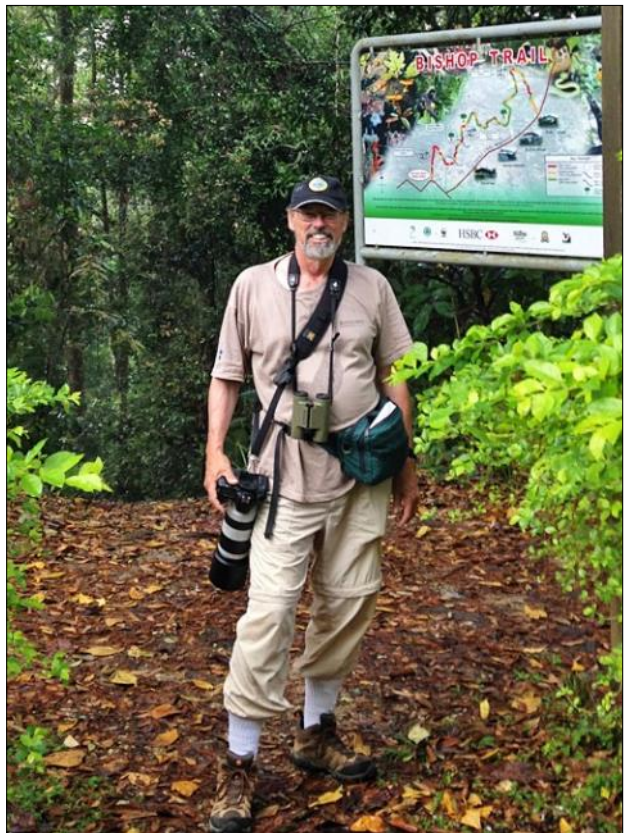
- * Speaker: Bob Lewis, “A Birds Rainbow”
- * Refreshments: 7 pm
Announcements: 7:15 pm
Program: 7:30 pm
- * Glebe Social Hall, St. Peter’s Catholic Church, 4085 Main Street, Kelseyville

Education Committee. Currently he’s co-teaching a popular Master Birding class at the SF Academy of Sciences with Jack Dumbacher and Eddie Bart-

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Saffron Toucanet’s yellow feathers are colored by carotenes in the food it eats.



Bob Lewis is the featured speak at the November 2016 Redbud Audubon Society program.

President's Message

by Co-President Roberta Lyons

Fall birds have arrived

The plaintive cry of the Golden-crowned Sparrow always sets me in a nostalgic mood. It takes me back to my childhood, lying underneath the towering old Valley Oak at my parent's newspaper office in Lower Lake. I would lie on the neglected lawn that managed to survive for a few years, after my folks bought the Clear Lake Observer, and enjoy the early waning Autumn warmth and the song of the sparrows. My Dad, Ross Hanchett, publisher of the paper, would always comment on the sparrow's sad song, but always with a note of humor in his voice.

The "oh dear me," they call is both melancholy and hopeful. These little birds return year after year and I always heave a sigh of relief when they arrive in September; it means that wherever they traveled for the summer breeding season is still available to them.

According to one birding website, the GCs migrate to British Columbia and Alaska to breed, but little is known about their habits. Mendocino Coast Audubon's president, David Jensen, wrote an excellent president's message in the society's Black Oystercatcher newsletter, urging us all to think a little bit more about where some of our

beloved migrating birds go when they leave the relative safety of our backyards. It isn't enough to think about our local habitats; we need to concern ourselves with the far off areas where some of our favorite birds either "winter," or "summer."

Dave is encouraging his members, and everyone, really, to become "informed and engaged." One way to do this is to become a member of the Audubon Action Network. Just Google the website and then follow instructions on how to sign in. The website will make it easy for you to make your concerns known to decision makers in Washington about the many issues affecting birds.

My Dad was a bird lover, though not necessarily a "bird watcher." I'm sorry he isn't still here to enjoy the White Pelicans, Bald Eagles, and sometimes thousands of Western Grebes that we now have but were absent when we first moved to our home on Clear Lake, in 1956. I am happy though, that the sound of the Golden-crowned is still being heard. He would be pleased to know they are still here; and I'm sure would be making his usual comments.

Your Membership explained

Just a quick reminder that you have a choice between two types of membership. Most of you are members of National Audubon and are assigned by National to our Redbud Audubon chapter.

We now offer chapter-only membership whereby you may enroll via the internet. You can visit our website at www.redbudaudubon.org and click on JOIN US for further details. Also, as a reminder, if you are receiving this newsletter by regular

mail and are open to receiving it by email, you can save the chapter significant printing and mailing costs by emailing us at redbud.audubon@gmail.org and letting us know.

If you prefer to receive the newsletter by mail, please consider donating \$10 - \$15 to Redbud Audubon by going to our website and clicking on DONATE.

Get to know your board members

By Roberta Lyons – co-president



Beth Shaver

Our board of directors is a welcoming group of people and we thought you might like to get to know who they are! And of course, after getting to know us, through our newsletter, you just might decide to join us on the board to help keep our beloved 41-year-old Redbud Audubon Society going into the future.

To start out this series, we are pleased to welcome our new board member, Beth Shaver, who now lives in Kono Tayee. Beth has not only volunteered to be on our Redbud Audubon Society board of directors, but also to serve as secretary.

Beth is a retired aerospace engineering manager/program manager from San Jose. Shortly after her early retirement she bought a second home on the lake in Lake County and got inspired by all the nature on the lake. She then spent 5 years as a volunteer interpretive guide at the Monterey Bay Aquarium (a long time aspiration) and was especially drawn to the Aviary Exhibit there. She moved full time to Lake County this past May with her husband Kerry, also a retired aerospace engineer, leaving her two full-grown sons to make their own way in Silicon Valley. She misses her time at the Aquarium, but recently joined the Redbud Audubon board hoping to contribute to “connecting people with nature” here.

Welcome new and returning members

Welcome new and returning members: Heather Peterson, Kelseyville; Pat Prettie, Kelseyville; Sandy and Bill Dean, Hidden Valley Lake; Tina Scott, Lakeport; Claudia Gonzalez, Nevada City, and Dwain Goforth, Kelseyville.

REDBUD AUDUBON BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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To contact a board member:
Phone 707/ 263-8030
Email: redbud.audubon@gmail.com



Field trip to Pt. Arena Stornetta Public Lands and Manchester Beach State Park was well attended

The Redbud Audubon field trip in October to Pt. Arena Stornetta Public Lands area was a fabulous day. Ten people came, including Dave Jensen president of Mendocino Coast Audubon and Doug Forsell two outstanding coast birders. The group traversed a couple of trails at Stornetta, then went to Manchester State Beach.

Doug Forsell, a resident of Pt. Arena does monthly studies along the north coast beaches and graciously joined the Redbud Audubon group to help identify and point out birds, as well as recommend good trails and areas. According to Pat Harmon, field trip leader, "if not for him we would not have seen the Snowy Plovers." She noted that the diminutive white and grey shorebirds were far off in the distance, but Forsell told them to "look for footprints," and they would see the plovers sitting in the footprints to keep out of the wind. Sure enough, the plovers were nestled down in the footprints.

The weather was great and everyone enjoyed the day. Following this article is a partial list of birds seen at both areas.

Report by Pat Harmon

22 Species (1+ other taxa) total

- 5 Common Merganser
- 2 Pied-billed Grebe
- 11 Pelagic Cormorant
- 1 Double-crested Cormorant
- 3 Brown Pelican
- 1 Great Blue Heron
- 2 Great Egret
- 5 Turkey Vulture
- 2 Red-shouldered Hawk
- 1 Red-tailed Hawk
- 1 Ruddy Turnstone
- 12 Black Turnstone
- 15 Surfbird
- 12 Short-billed/Long-billed Dowitcher
- 20 Western Gull
- 1 Glaucous-winged Gull
- 1 Caspian Tern
- 2 Northern Flicker (Red-shafted)
- 3 American Kestrel
- 1 Black Phoebe
- 6 Common Raven
- 2 Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)
- 2 White-crowned Sparrow



The Red-headed Barbet operates a chemical plant in its body to convert yellow carotenes to red pigments.



Observations

By Jerry White (JRW)

Two **RED-NECKED GREBES** have been reported since the last Observations column. The first was a bird seen at the Kelsey Creek Outlet on November 14, 2015 by Ruth Rudesill. The second was found by John Sterling on Clear Lake seen from Highway 20 on April 10th, 2016. This is the only Spring record for Lake County. Three **LEAST BITTERNs** were found. Floyd Hayes saw one at Long Tule Point on July 3rd. Brad Barnwell saw one at Rodman Slough on July 8th. Greg Giusti had one at Lands End on July 18th.

Steve Stump found two **EURASIAN WIGEONS**. The first was at the Scotts Valley Ponds on February 13th. The second was in the flooded fields seen from Hwy. 20 near Witter Springs Road on March 11th. Dave Woodward found a **PRAIRIE FALCON** on Pyle Road November 2, 2015. A **SOLITARY SANDPIPER** was at the Kelsey Creek Outlet on September 10, 2016 (Steve Stump). A **MEW GULL** was at the Kelsey Creek Outlet on December 2, 2015 (JRW). A **COMMON TERN** was at the Adobe Creek Outlet on September 9, 2016 (Floyd Hayes).

A **CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD** was at Clear Lake Riviera on April 4, 2016 (Vicki Miller). Vicki Miller also had an **ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD** at her feeders on June 11th. Another **ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD** was at Blue Lakes found by Steve Stump on June 25th. A **BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER** was discovered and photographed on November 26, 2015 by Doug and Elisa Prather. The bird was seen again on December 16th by Brad Barnwell. A "Red" Fox Sparrow made a brief visit to Kelseyville on January 13th (JRW).



The pigment that creates the yellow color in King Penguins is still undefined.

"A Bird's Rainbow"

(Continued from page 1)

ley, and Birds of the Bay Area with Rusty Scaup. He loves to travel and photograph birds, and has recently returned from a trip to Peru, chasing the brightly colored birds of that area.

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.

November 19

Lake County Land Trust's
Rodman Preserve near Upper Lake.

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

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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.

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