



The Western Grebe

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

www.redbudaudubon.org

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California's blackbird is in alarming decline

Redbud Audubon is pleased to welcome guest presenter, Robert J. Meese, Ph.D. who will present a program on California's blackbird, the tricolor, *Agelaius tricolor*. The tricolor is a near-endemic passerine that forms the largest breeding colonies of any songbird in North America. Originally al-



*Dr. Robert J. Meese
with Tricolored
Blackbird*

most exclusively a marsh-dweller, the tricolor now inhabits landscapes that differ fundamentally from the ones in which it evolved. Due to its gregarious nature and insect-dependence during the breeding season, the tricolor places huge demands upon lands within 3 miles of its breeding colonies.

Through a multimedia presentation that includes still images, videos, and digital sound files, Bob will explore the tricolor's natural history, field identification, and population trends.

Drawing on his more than a decade of work with the species, Bob will illus-



A displaying male Tricolored Blackbird.

trate the tricolor's extraordinary breeding and foraging habits, the relationship between insect abundance and reproductive success, discuss the results and implications of the 2014 Statewide Survey, and evaluate the prospects for the species' future.

Bob Meese has been with the Information Center for the Environment, ICE, in the Department of Environmental Science & Policy at U.C. Davis for 21 years and has worked with tricolored blackbirds for 11 years.

He has banded over 63,000 tricolors in the past 8 years. His work with tricolors has taken him from San Diego County to Butte County with a focus on the Central Valley from Kern County to

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OCTOBER MEETING

Thursday, Oct. 15

- * California's Blackbird is in decline
- * Refreshments: 7 pm
Announcements: 7:15 pm
Program: 7:30 pm
- * Glebe Social Hall, St. Peter's Catholic Church, 4085 Main St., Kelseyville

President's Message

by Roberta Lyons

Our hearts go out to our many friends who have lost their homes in the devastating Valley Fire. I know that those reading this either know someone or are among the hundreds of people who have suffered the loss of their homes.

Add to that loss, the terror and anxiety of escaping the raging flames, and it is clear that countless of our friends and neighbors have been deeply traumatized by this event.

Please know that everyone is in sympathy with those of you who have suffered loss. We care about you and you are in our hearts.



Kathy Barnwell keeps the record of birds seen on Redbud Audubon's field trips.



We had a great joint Redbud Audubon/Lake County Land Trust walk last Saturday at the Land Trust's Rodman Preserve. Pat Harmon, Janet Swedberg, Brad Barnwell and Lisa and Doug Prather enjoyed hanging out under the oak in the Preserve's yard after the walk. A total of 33 species were seen, including some Lincoln's Sparrows, two Common Yellowthroats, White-crowned Sparrows, Black-shouldered Kite, Red-tailed Hawk and numerous Acorn Woodpeckers. It was a beautiful day and everyone enjoyed themselves. Also attending were Kathy Barnwell, Roberta Lyons and Eileen Geiser.

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Glenn County. He was the statewide coordinator for the 2014 Tricolored Blackbird Statewide Survey and helped to develop the Tricolored Blackbird Portal (tricolor.ice.ucdavis.edu). Bob serves as the scientific lead for the Tricolored Blackbird Working Group and his research focuses on identifying the reasons for chronic poor reproductive success since 2007 and patterns of movement and estimating life history parameters as revealed by his banding studies. Bob was invited to address the California Fish and Game Commission at its August 6th, 2014 meeting in San Diego on a possible emergency listing for the tricolored blackbird under the California Endangered Species Act and his work was highlighted in a segment on the CBS Evening News on Saturday, June 28, 2014.

Prior to his work with tricolors, Bob served as a member of the Peregrine Falcon recovery team for the Colorado Division of Wildlife, studied peregrine falcons in Greenland for 5 summers, was a consultant to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, helped to design an inventory and monitoring program for the biota of State Vehicular Recreation Areas for California State Parks, and is currently a member of the World Commission on Protected Areas, an international network of protected area experts administered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), with members in 140 countries.

Join us at Camp Indian Meadows for October field trip

Please join the Redbud Audubon Society for our October field trip on Saturday, Oct. 17 at Camp Indian Meadows 12995 Bottlerock Rd. The best place to meet for this event is the cemetery on Bottlerock Road before you get to Camp Indian Meadows if you are coming on Bottlerock from Highway 29 out of Kelseyville. This will be an enjoyable walk with possible viewing of migrating songbirds, raptors, and woodpeckers. This area was not burned and so it is safe to enter. If you have any questions call Pat Harmon at 263-4977 or Roberta Lyons, 994-2024. More information will be available at the Audubon meeting.

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.

Oct. 17 – Indian Meadows, Cobb

Nov. 21 – Anderson Marsh State Historic Park

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

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- ☐ 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:** _____

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