



The Western Grebe

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

www.redbudaudubon.org

Volume 42—Issue No. 6—FEBRUARY 2017

Explore the Ecuadorian Andes with Gordon Beebe



Gordon Beebe

The February topic is “Three short weeks in the Ecuadorian Andes, from east to west.” Redbud Audubon welcomes Gordon Beebe, Past President of Madrone Audubon Society, who will present “Three short weeks in the Ecuadorian Andes, from east to west” on Thursday, February 16.

Experience the visual beauty and unique songs and calls of the birds of the varied mountain habitats of Ecuador, from Wildsumaco Wildlife Sanctuary on the eastern slopes, to the páramo of Las Cajas National Park high in the Andes, and then over to the western slopes to Maquipucuna Reserve, in the famous Mindo birding area.

FEBRUARY MEETING

Thursday, February 16

- * “Three Short Weeks in the Ecuadorian Andes” with Gordon Beebe
- * Refreshments: 7 pm
Announcements: 7:15 pm
Program: 7:30 pm
- * Methodist Church Social Hall,
16255 Second St, Lower Lake

Along the way, learn the meaning of derrumbe, a word Beebe and his group encountered frequently on the first days of his exploration.

Ecuador is said to have the highest biodiversity per acre of any country in the world. Over 1,660 species of birds have been recorded in the country;



The Chestnut-breasted Coronet is just one of the interesting birds Gordon Beebe will introduce. Photo by Gordon Beebe

however, many have a very limited range. Rather than attempting to collect a huge species list in a short period of time, Beebe focused instead on two ecolodges, plus a visit to Cuenca, a World Heritage site, third largest city in Ecuador, and gateway to Las Cajas National Park.

With the help of knowledgeable local guides from Beebe’s travels, revel in the sight and sound of the Toucan Barbets’ nasal honking duet. Meet

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Please take note!

This month’s field trip to Bodega Bay will be Saturday, February 18. The carpool leaves Lower Lake at 7:30 a.m.

President's Message

by Co-President Bonnie Thompson

February is proving to be a busy month!

Our February program will feature Gordon Beebe as he takes us to the Ecuadorian Andes. The sights and sounds he shares in his presentation will be a treat—a mini-vacation! Remember we meet at the “spring” location in Lower Lake.

Following this, our Saturday field trip will be to Bodega Bay. Pat Harmon who continues to outdo herself with our fieldtrips leads this event! Please note the change of time to meet in Lower Lake if you want to carpool.

Just a reminder that February 17 to 20/21 are the dates for the Great Backyard Bird Count. Thanks to Joyce Anderson and Lisa Prather for tapping three area schools to be key participants in this educational experience. All, young and olde, are invited to participate; please see the newsletter article.

Again, I want to thank those of you who have already participated in our *Donation Campaign for 2016-2017*. To date, we have raised \$900 of our goal of \$2,000 to help offset expenses of having premier speakers who travel to Lake County for our programs as well as our outreach to schools and more.

If you would like to make a donation, please visit our website, www.redbudaudubon.org and DONATE today!

Hope to see you at our February Program!



REMINDER . . . The Great Backyard Bird Count takes place this month

The Great Backyard Bird Count is happening this month, February 17 – 20, 2017. Our elementary schools will be participating February 17, 20, and 21 due to scheduled holidays.

You will need to go the GBBC website to enter your counts. It's easy and FUN! Please visit the official website at birdcount.org for more info.

Bird populations are always shifting and changing. The count shows the effects that warm weather patterns have had on bird movement around the country. For more on the results of the 2016 GBBC, take a look at the [GBBC Summary](#), and be sure to check out some of the images in the [2016 GBBC Photo Contest Gallery](#).

On the program website, participants can explore real-time maps and charts that show what others are reporting during and after the count. Be sure to check out the Explore a Region tool to get an idea of what you can expect to see in your area during the next GBBC.

Status of donation campaign

By Vivian McFarling

In December our chapter sent out an email to our members requesting donations to help us cover costs for honorariums and lodging for our program speakers. To be honest, we finish each year in the red by anywhere from \$2,000 to \$4,000. So we set a goal of raising \$2,000 with our latest donation campaign.

We are happy to report that so far, our members have come forward with \$900. Some of you have chosen not to provide us with your email, and may not know about the campaign. In February we plan on mailing our donation letters you.

I have heard comments from a few people mentioning that they intend to donate, but just haven't gotten around to it. If you are one of those people, just take the bull by the horn and *act right now* while you are thinking about it. Go to www.redbudaudubon.org and click on DONATE NOW. Anything you can contribute will be very much appreciated.

Meet Board Member Lisa Prather



Lisa Prather is currently assisting Joyce Anderson as Co-Education Committee Chair for Lake County's Redbud Audubon chapter. Growing up in rural California, Lisa has been a nature lover since childhood. The native fauna and flora of our beautiful Lake County have captivated her and she has called it home for almost 20 years.

Lisa Prather

Lisa has been a teacher for 27 years and has taught science at Terrace Middle School in Lakeport for the last 17 years. She has also worked as a 4-H volunteer to help get kids outside and learning about their environment. She raised two beautiful children who are off at college and, she hopes, having adventures they will cherish. Her favorite hobbies include hiking, crocheting, kayaking, riding roller coasters, and of course, birding with her best friend and husband, Doug. Every summer, she can be found with her nature journal on some remote perch listening to the sounds of birds and documenting her discoveries.

Legislative Help Needed!

Some of our members who are also members of National Audubon may be receiving email from National on legislative issues that affect our birds. National Audubon (as well as California Audubon) makes it easy to click on a link to locate your representative in Congress along with a link to their email. Your voice is important! Our voices together can make a difference.

In the future, Redbud Audubon plans on forwarding some of these pertinent legislative notices via email to you. We hope you will not mind if you receive them both from National Audubon and us. The protection of our bird life is extremely important at this time.

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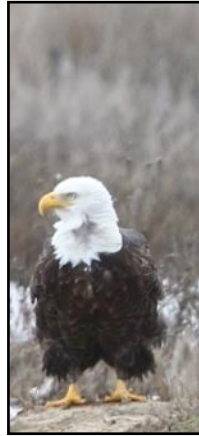
Email: redbud.audubon@gmail.com



Members enjoyed a sunny day at the NWRs.



Great Egret by Brad Barnwell.



Bald Eagle.

Field trip to Bodega Bay will be February 18

Note: We will leave from Lower Lake at 7:30 a.m.

The February 18 field trip hosted by the Redbud Audubon Society will be to Bodega Bay.

We will explore one of Sonoma County's richest bird areas and look for wintering shorebirds, waterfowl, and landbirds.

Carpooling is available. Participants will leave from Lower Lake at 7:30 a.m. Meet on the east end of the Main Street to park in a place that won't interfere with merchants in town. We plan to arrive and park at the Tides Wharf, 835 Coast Highway 1 by 9:30 a.m. to begin our birding.

If you are driving separately, park at the far end of the parking lot at the Tides Wharf by 9:30 a.m.

For more information, contact Pat Harmon at 263-4977. Information about field trips hosted by Redbud Audubon Society is also available at www.redbudaudubon.org.



Cinnamon Teal and Coot. Photo by Brad Barnwell.

Report on NWRs Field Trip

Eight lucky Audubon members enjoyed a glorious and clear day of birding at Colusa and Sacramento Wildlife Refuges January 21. The birds were widely dispersed because there was so much water! But on Highway 20 entering Williams, there were Snow Geese and Tundra Swans packed together feeding in plowed fields.

The species count was excellent with high number of Black-necked Stilts, Green-winged Teal, Northern Shovelers and Gadwalks. We also had great sightings of American Eagles!

On Highway 20 at the Gravel Pit Ponds, we had a good number of Ring-necked Ducks, eight elk cows and one magnificent bull elk.

After so many rainy days in January, it was great getting out in the field!

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.

February 18

Bodega Bay

March 18

Clear Lake State Park,

Kelseyville

April 29-30; May 6-7

Heron Days

Changes to This Year's Heron Days

By Vivian McFarling

Planning for Heron Days is under way. Five new volunteers have come forward to help. This means that we can offer four days of boat tours instead of the usual two, and our boaters have graciously agreed to drive for two days instead of the usual one.

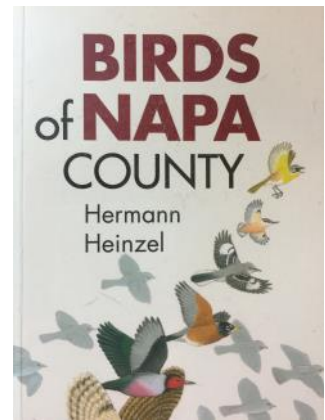
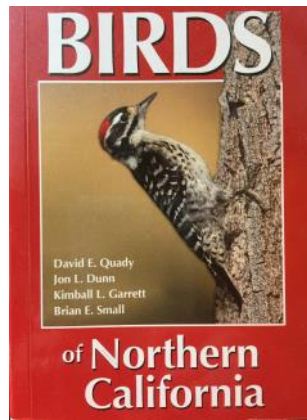
Our other major change is that we are switching the location of the south lake tours from Redbud Park to Shady Acres Campground which is right on Cache Creek north of Anderson Marsh State Park. You can see it from Hwy 53 as you cross the creek. This means we save time spent crossing Clear Lake from Redbud Park into the marsh, and will have more time to enjoy the birds.

The dates are set. Tours from **Lakeside County Park** will take place on Saturday and Sunday, **April 29 and 30**. April 29 is also the date of the Wildflower Brunch at Clear Lake State Park, so you can take advantage of both events on the same day. The dates for **Shady Acres Campground** are Saturday and Sunday, **May 6 and 7**. Some may want to camp there the night before or after. RVs welcome.

The last change we have made is that we have eliminated the afternoon tours. Last year the afternoon tours at Lakeside had to be cancelled due to high winds. So all tours will take place in the morning, which is when the bird viewing is at its best.

Overall, we have increased the number of days and the number of tours being offered. None of this could happen without the wonderful volunteer efforts of our boaters and Redbud Audubon members. My sincere thanks go out to all of them.

Registration usually opens between March 1-15 on our Redbud Audubon website. Mark your calendars.



Books! Books!

At our last meeting, we set out over 45 books that had been donated by Carmen Patterson, a Redbud Audubon member who is leaving the area and who has donated her library to our chapter.

Several of the books were set aside for the schools participating in our bird education series and who will be participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count this month.

Attendees at our January meeting were able to browse and select from such titles as: **National Geographic Complete Birds of North America**, **Golden Guide to Birds of North America**, **Hummingbirds: Their Life and Behavior**, and two beautiful coffee table books on exotic birds.

Purchase was available through a donation. We will continue to offer these books at our February meeting. Hurry, the books are going fast! We are also offering two excellent books we feel highlight Lake County Birds and have great reviews from members.

The cost of these books is at the suggested retail price listed on the cover. Available for sale are: **Birds of Napa County** by Herman Heinzel at \$13 and **Birds of Northern California** by Quady, Dunn, Garrett and Small for \$20.

Welcome new and returning members

Welcome new and returning members: Pamela Mikalson, Clearlake; Octavia Edelstein, Kelseyville; Eleanor Harr, Kelseyville; Diane McClellan, Lakeport; Jim Spahr, Lakeport; Joyce Northrup, Lakeport; Connie Indrebo, Middletown; Jane Ahrens, Upper Lake; Sarah Dorn, Kelseyville; Sue Sheetz, Kelseyville; Elle Harr, Kelseyville; Carmen Patterson, Kelseyville; Candace BlackStone, Lakeport; Bob Justice, Lakeport; Claire Grieve, Lakeport; Chris Meszaros, Middletown; Jan Brejska, Middletown; Kathy

and Tom Scavone, Middletown; Susan Saunders, Upper Lake; Catherine Dion, Clearlake; Emma Owen, Clearlake; Lynn Koehler, Clearlake Oaks; Carole Ginesi, Clearlake Park; Linda Foster, Kelseyville; Harriett Emery, Lakeport; Beatrice Garcia, Lower Lake; Karen Dann, Lower Lake; Winifred Lea, Lower Lake; Allan Book, Middletown; Chiyako Ito, Hidden Valley Lake; Frances Conley, Stewarts Point; and Vicki Miller of Kelseyville.

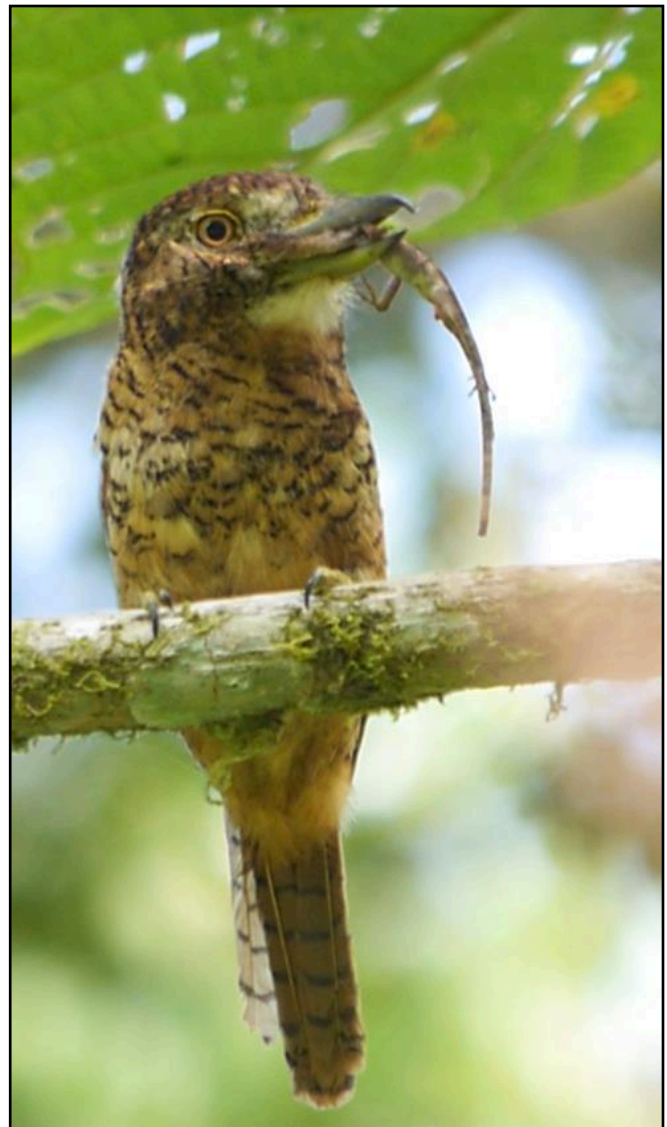
Explore the Ecuadorian Andes with Gordon Beebe

(Continued from page 1)

over 80 other species of birds, including hook-billed kite, hummingbirds of every shape and color, singing antpittas, tanagers and more in photos and video. Several more reclusive species that declined the offer to appear, such as the Musician Wren and the Spotted Nightingale-Thrush, provide the audio background for the presentation. Not to be outdone, the variety of caterpillars and butterflies encountered rival any bird species seen.

At Maquipucuna, a locally-owned and run ecological preserve, see some of the myriad uses for bamboo, learn how to open a cacao pod, and see coffee production, from flower to bean to drying. A note for prospective travelers: Beebe tells us that by visiting in June, he was able to catch the end of the (very) rainy season on the Amazonian side, then experienced drier, though still showery, weather to the west.

Gordon Beebe is a project coordinator for the Sonoma County Breeding Bird Atlas, the Saturday bird walk leader and website editor for Madrone Audubon. He lives with his wife Judy in Santa Rosa, CA.



*Come see the Puffer bird at this month's meeting.
Photo by Gordon Beebe*

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 where by 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 remind-

er, 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.



Students enjoying a day out in the sunshine while learning about birds.

Terrace Middle School is gearing up for the Great Backyard Bird Count

by Lisa Prather

It is always a fun day at school when kids can head outside for some outdoor education! Seventh grade science students at Terrace Middle School have been trained in how to use binoculars and have participated in campus bird walks. The most common birds seen on our campus hillside include acorn woodpeckers, brewers blackbirds, starlings, black phoebes, house sparrows, crows, and northern flickers. One group witnessed a raven and redbtail hawk having a graceful battle high above our campus. The next group enjoyed how a crow was swooping down trying to unseat a Cooper's hawk perched on top of our tallest tree. Students are still working on species identification and are coming to class with news about new species they see at home. Not too many birds visit the bird feeders next to the science classroom, but an occasional brewers black bird and Anna's hummingbird visit from time to time.

Students have begun work on their Lake County Species reports and have been shown how to enter data in eBird. They are preparing for the Great Backyard Bird Count in February and they look forward to their art and citizen science projects.

Thanks goes out to Redbud Audubon for purchasing books about birds, including how to draw them. We hope to have more student art calendars to sell this year. It was an excellent fundraiser for our class and we were able to purchase 4 more pairs of binoculars.



Kids learn how to use their binoculars on a campus bird walk.

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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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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