



The Western Grebe

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

www.redbudaudubon.org

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Bird Identification is topic for December Audubon meeting

The Dec. 14, 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 (CBC) scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 16.

The Bird Identification program, presented by local photographers and naturalists, Brad and Kathy Barnwell, is a great way to learn

DECEMBER MEETING

Thursday, Dec. 14

- **Topic:** Bird Identification
- **Speakers:** Brad & Kathy Barnwell
- **Refreshments:** 7 pm
Announcements: 7:15 pm
Program: 7:30 pm
- **Location:** Kelseyville Presbyterian Church Social Hall, 5430 Third St., Kelseyville. (*Please note we are back at our usual meeting location!*)

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.

The Barnwells will give a power point presentation featuring amazing images of many of Lake County's birds. The program emphasizes the field characteristics of birds

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This adult male Coopers Hawk is doing what Coopers Hawks do, prey on songbirds. That is a blackbird he will be feasting on. Coopers Hawks are fairly common in Lake County and should probably be spotted on the Christmas Bird Count.



The Wrentit, although usually easier heard, then seen, can be called out to view if you are patient.

**Special thanks to Brad Barnwell
for his photographs used in this edition
of the Western Grebe.**

President's Message

by President
Roberta Lyons



I'm a history buff and, having been a resident of Lake County off and on for over 50 years, I always enjoy passing on my local knowledge to friends and acquaintances. I try not to be a "know it all,"

and I don't just rely on my memory. Memory is notoriously faulty, especially if it is from one's childhood or youth. Fortunately I collect ephemera and among the moldy old documents I have are numerous newspaper articles, brochures, Lake County visitor magazines and newsletters.

And, thanks to the founding members of the Redbud Audubon Society, I have the first "Western Grebe," newsletters. If members of your organization ever tease you about unnecessarily hanging on to documents and such, don't listen. I'm very thankful that the original "Auduboners" filed their newsletters and wrote about activities the club was carrying out. How else would we know that this upcoming Christmas Bird Count is Redbud's 43rd count? Or that Audubon members fought hard to prevent hunting in Anderson Marsh State Historic Park, or all of the other events and campaigns that Redbud has worked on over the years, including our popular Heron Days event.

Hopefully 30 or 40 years from now future Redbud Audubon members will review our newsletters and be thankful that we were able to

work with developers and farmers to keep unwise projects from occurring here; that we did our part in educating the public about climate change and worked with our local schools to help our youth understand and appreciate the impressive birdlife and other nature that we are privileged to have here in beautiful Lake County.

However, in order to keep doing all of these things, we continue to need volunteers. We have a strong core group but we can always use more folks, and sadly, sometimes people move on. As is the case with our valued and beloved Vivian McFarling.

Vivian and her husband Tom have moved to Washington State to be near their children and to start a new adventure. We are happy for them, but we will miss them deeply. Not only for the tireless work they have done for our local non-profits, but also because they are both fabulous people. They are a hardworking unselfish couple who also share a great sense of humor. Vivian mainly concentrated her efforts as a board member with Redbud Audubon, setting up our Gmail account, organizing Heron Days and establishing our on-line donor program with Member Planet, to name just a few of her contributions.

Tom volunteered for Redbud, Anderson Marsh State Park and the Lake County Land Trust. Their departure has left a gap and although no one will be able to replace them as individuals, we do need more volunteers for Redbud Audubon to help pick up where they have left off. As I do in almost every president's message I write, I request anyone who is interested in becoming more meaningfully involved in Redbud Audubon to please call me at (707) 994-2024 and we can talk.

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.



Northern Flickers should be spotted on the 43rd CBC being held by Redbud Audubon.

Redbud Audubon to participate in annual Christmas Bird Count on December 16

This year, the annual Clear Lake Christmas Bird Count, held by the Redbud Audubon Society, will be on Saturday, Dec. 16. The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is a traditional project of Audubon societies around the country.

This is National Audubon's 118th Christmas Bird Count with all counts being held between the dates of Thursday, Dec. 14, 2017 through Friday, Jan. 5, 2018.

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.

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REDBUD AUDUBON BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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To contact a board member:

Phone 707/ 263-8030

Email: redbud.audubon@gmail.com



The Indian Meadows field trip was enjoyed by Brad and Kathy Barnwell, Susanne Scholz, Janet Swedberg, Bella Kluyt and Jeannette Knight.

Indian Meadows Field Trip was productive

The Redbud Audubon field trip to Indian Meadows in Cobb Valley was great fun attendees report. As is evident from the bird list it was productive as well. Many thanks to Jeannette Knight for arranging this getaway which is always a fun day. Plus, we were able to use the bathrooms too! Which is always a plus! The original report was that the bathrooms at the campground would be locked but thanks to Jeannette's connections, they were open and available! Six people attended for an enjoyable field trip. The following 30 species were spotted:

Mallard 32	White-breasted Nuthatch 9
California Quail 24	Pygmy Nuthatch 6
Turkey Vulture 4	Brown Creeper 3
Northern Harrier 1	Bewick's Wren 1
Red-tailed Hawk 2	Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1
Anna's Hummingbird 1	Western Bluebird 15
Belted Kingfisher 1	American Robin 3
Acorn Woodpecker 33	Varied Thrush 4
Red-breasted Sapsucker 3	Dark-eyed Junco 49
Northern Flicker 1	Golden-crowned Sparrow 10
American Kestrel 1	Song Sparrow 2
Black Phoebe 3	California Towhee 7
Steller's Jay 4	Spotted Towhee 12
California Scrub-Jay 14	Red-winged Blackbird 6
Common Raven 2	blackbird sp. 12
Oak Titmouse 10	



Observations

By Jerry White (JRW)

A **SNOW GOOSE** was photographed by Doug Prather at Lakeside County Park on January 19th 2017. A **BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD** was found by Dan Airola in Middletown on August 24th. Vicki Miller had a **CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD** at her feeder in Clear Lake Riviera on April 6th and then had two on April 27th. On April 20th she photographed an **ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD**.

Two adult **COMMON GALLINULE'S** with a chick were photographed by Brad and Kathy Barnwell at Rodman Slough on August 15th. A **PACIFIC LOON** was photographed on Clear Lake from Highway 20 on January 9th by Dave Woodward.

LEAST BITTERN'S were found at Rodman Slough on June 27th and August 15th by Brad and Kathy Barnwell. A **ROCK WREN** was found on Hull Mountain at 6800 foot elevation on June 19th (JRW).

Field Trip Calendar 2017-2018

Following is the field trip calendar for the Redbud Audubon Society for 2017-2018. Prior to each field trip a description will appear in our newsletter, 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 16
Christmas Bird Count

January 20
Colusa and
Sacramento National
Wildlife Refuges

February 17
Clear Lake State Park,
Soda Bay Road,
Kelseyville

March 17
McKerricker State Park
Highway 1, Fort Bragg

April and May (TBA)



The Cinnamon Teal is a stunning duck and frequents wetlands and ponds in Lake County.

Bird Identification is topic for December Audubon meeting

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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 43rd 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 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 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.

Please provide us with your email

A number of our members have emailed us at redbud.audubon@gmail.com to opt to receive our newsletter, "The Western Grebe" by email as opposed to receiving it by mail.

Not only do you help save a tree, you help us save on expenses and energy in sending it to you by regular mail, and it comes to you in color versus the black and white mailed version. If you have been meaning to, but haven't yet done so, take the minute or two out of your time to do so.

Even if you still prefer to receive the mailed version of the "Grebe", we would like to have your email for our records. Once in a while, we send out emails to our members about important events or bird sightings that may be of interest. You are also welcome to email us with any information that you think would be of interest to the membership. Questions requiring expert opinions are forwarded to the appropriate persons.

Also, we rely on our members for whom we have emails to help us with any volunteer efforts that we may have. Often it just means a couple of hours of your time. Whether you have areas of expertise or birding skills that you can share, or are willing to help us with general staffing of booths, setting up booths and transporting materials, we welcome your participation.

So please give us your email address by sending it to redbud.audubon@gmail.com, and, if you wish, let us know in what areas you feel you can help.

SAVE THE DATE:

Olympic Birdfest, April 13-15, 2018. Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours, live auction, raffle, gala banquet, and more. Our featured speaker: Claudio Vidal will talk about Patagonia & Chile: Birds & Mammals at the End of the Americas. Join the festival pre-trip: a three-day, two-night birding/sightseeing cruise of the San Juan Islands, April 10-12, 2018 or extend your festival with the Neah Bay post-trip on April 16-17, 2018: two days exploring northwest coastal Washington. To learn more and register, visit www.olympicbirdfest.org.



A juvenile Cooper's Hawk with its prey on the ground. Watch for Cooper's Hawks on the Bird Count.

Redbud Audubon to participate in annual Christmas Bird Count on December 16

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There is a specific methodology to the CBC, and all participants must make arrangements to participate in advance with the circle compiler within an established circle, but anyone can participate.

Count volunteers follow specified routes through the designated 15-mile (24-km) diameter circle, counting every bird they see or hear all day. It's not just a species tally—all birds are counted all day, giving an indication of the total number of birds in the circle that day.

If you are a beginning birder, you will be able to join a group that includes at least one experienced birdwatcher.

If your home is within the boundaries of a CBC circle, then you can stay at home and report the birds that visit your feeder on count day as long as you have made prior arrangements with the count compiler.

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 count. Birders of all skill levels are encouraged to participate. This is Audubon's longest running wintertime tradition and is the 43rd 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 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. 14 Redbud Audubon meeting at the Presbyterian Church Social Hall in Kelseyville Brad and Kathy Barnwell will present an extensive slide show and discussion of

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Wilson's Snipes are a secretive bird that frequents mudflats in wetland and lake areas.

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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 conservation 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

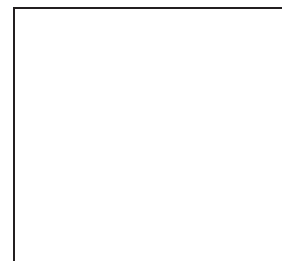
are at the heart of numerous peer-reviewed scientific studies.

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.



Counters might see some juvenile Osprey on the December 16 annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC).

Redbud Audubon
PO Box 5780
Clearlake, CA 95422



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.
- ☐ Check this box only if you wish to receive **The Western Grebe** newsletter by regular mail. Otherwise, it will be emailed to you.
- ☐ 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.

You have the option of just joining the Redbud Chapter by enrolling online at www.redbudaudubon.org.
Newsletter by email \$25/year; by regular mail \$35/year.

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

- ☐ I would also like to make a contribution to the local work of Redbud Audubon. My check is enclosed for
_____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$75 _____ \$100 Other: _____
**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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