



The Western Grebe

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

www.redbudaudubon.org

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Please note change of Location for this program **Bird Identification is topic for December Audubon meeting**

The Dec. 13 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

DECEMBER MEETING

Thursday, December 13

- Topic:** Bird Identification Program in preparation for upcoming Christmas Bird Count
- Speakers:** Brad and Kathy Barnwell
- Refreshments:** 7 pm
- Announcements:** 7:15 pm
- Program:** 7:30 pm
- Location:** Kelseyville Methodist/Unitarian Social Hall, Corner of Main and First Streets, Kelseyville

Bird Count (CBC) scheduled for Saturday, December 15.

The Bird Identification program, presented by local photographers and naturalists, Brad and Kathy 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 com-

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Keep an eye and ear out for the large Pileated Woodpecker. Happy drumming away on trees for their grub, sometimes they also visit feeders. Photo by Brad Barnwell



The White-breasted Nuthatch eats seeds and insects. These birds can be found on feeders or scouting for insects along the trunks of trees, often upside-down. Photo by Brad Barnwell

President's Message

by President Roberta Lyons



It seems that not a month goes by that I'm wondering whether I should try to say something about the fires that are plaguing our beautiful homeland here in Northern California. At some point there is just nothing left to say. This most recent fire struck closer to home in the sense that my nephew,

his wife and three children lost their beautiful home in Paradise. And, scarily, he almost lost his life along with numerous other people, who were trapped on one of the roads trying to escape the flames. Fortunately Cal Fire came to the scene with a bulldozer and cleared a path for people to escape – but it was close.

I know we are all horrified at what people have gone through. I'm hoping those who can have donated money to one of the approved groups that are helping people. If you haven't yet donated and would like to, just google "The best way to help Paradise Camp Fire survivors," and lots of sites pop up. For those who don't have internet, the North Valley Community Foundation is a good organization, from what I understand. You can donate by check to: NVCF Camp Fire Relief, 240 Main St. Ste 260, Chico, CA 95928.

It is too bad that so many people on social media and elsewhere feel the need to incorrectly blame "the environmentalists," for these disasters. There is no doubt that our forests need better management, but I know from personal experience from serving on a forest advisory committee for many years as the "environmental" representative, that the big problem is MONEY. When we were dividing up the meager funds allocated for the

Mendocino National Forest, one of the top priorities was always thinning projects. It is expensive to properly manage forests, unless we just want to clear-cut everything. It is possible to sustainably harvest forests and that is happening in many areas, but logging isn't the only answer. You cannot point to one cause of the fires and I'm sure you all have heard the litany of reasons why these fires are happening now: climate change, wildland/urban interface, population growth, and more. There are numerous articles noting that many officials and experts knew the situation in Paradise was dangerous. They tried to plan for it, but it was beyond planning for. I urge those blaming the "radical environmentalists," for this disaster to do some research and get their facts straight.

So on to something cheerier. I was happy to be at the recent Lake County Board of Supervisors meeting where the board, spear-headed by Dist. 3 Supervisor Jim Steele, approved a proclamation asserting the value of the county's "dark skies." This is an exciting movement that is being promoted and organized by leaders of the Taylor Observatory, including David Velasquez.

Redbud Audubon was one of the groups supporting this effort and I would like to thank our county Board of Supervisors for being agreeable to this concept. The next step is to start encouraging towns and cities here to require dark sky friendly lighting. This is not only for the enjoyment of people and the safety of migrating birds, but also a chance to promote Astro-tourism here in Lake County.

We should not take for granted the fact that we are among a very small percentage of people in this state and indeed, the nation, who are able to see the Milky Way. Thank you David and all others who worked on this project. It is a very exciting proposal and adds to the many good things we are able to say about Lake County.

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.

Welcome new and returning members

Henry Bornstein, Clearlake; Barbara Renshaw, Clearlake; Pamela Roscoe, Clearlake; Jon Ballesteros, Kelseyville; Carrie Hanks, Kelseyville; Faith Rigolosi, Lakeport; Bill Pray, Lakeport; Caryn Bender, Lucerne; Homer Hillebrand, Clearlake Oaks; Kirsten Olson, Kelseyville; Dennis Oliver, Kelseyville.

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Examples of birds you might see on the Redbud Audubon Christmas Bird Count

Photos by Brad Barnwell



American Robin



Bewick's Wren

Redbud Audubon to participate in annual Christmas Bird Count on December 15

This year, the annual Clear Lake Christmas Bird Count, held by the Redbud Audubon Society, will be on Saturday, Dec. 15. The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is a traditional project of Audubon societies around the country.

This is National Audubon's 119th Christmas Bird Count with all counts being held between the dates of Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 through Saturday, Jan. 5, 2019.

Each December or early January, 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.

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 44th year the Count has taken place in Lake

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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. 13, Redbud Audubon meeting Brad and Kathy Barnwell will present an extensive slide show and discussion of 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. The meeting is being held at the Kelseyville Methodist/Unitarian Social Hall, Corner of Main and First Streets.

If you are interested in participating in the bird count, call Brad or Kathy Barnwell at (707) 263-1283.

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.



Cedar Waxwing



Chestnut-backed Chickadee



Wrentit

More birds you may see on the CBC...



Northern Flicker



Western Meadowlark



Spotted Towhee



Female Wood Duck



Western Bluebird

Photos by Brad Barnwell

Bird Identification is topic for December Audubon meeting

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mon 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 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 44th 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 Brad and Kathy Barnwell at (707) 263-1283. 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.

Your membership is 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 offer chapter-only membership whereby you must enroll via the internet. You can visit our website at www.redbudaudubon.org and click on membership 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.

Field Trip Calendar

Following is the field trip calendar for the Redbud Audubon Society for 2018 – 2019. 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 our field trip chair, Pat Harmon at (707) 263-4977 for information. Outings start at 9 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

December 15 Christmas Bird Count

January 19
Colusa and Sacramento
National Wildlife Refuges

February 23
Clear Lake State Park
Soda Bay Rd. Kelseyville

March 23
Lakeside County Park, Kelseyville

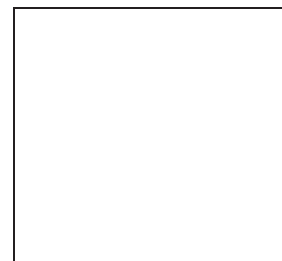
April 27-28-Heron Days

May 4-5-Heron Days

May 18-Potter Valley



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
Connecting People with Nature since 1974