



# *The Western Grebe*

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

[www.redbudaudubon.org](http://www.redbudaudubon.org)

Volume 44 • Issue No. 6 • February, 2019

***Please note meeting place change.*** Starting in January, Redbud Audubon began meeting at the Methodist Church Social Hall, 16255 Second St. in Lower Lake as we have been doing for the last few years. If you are coming through Lower Lake, turn left on Lake Street and then right on Second St. The church social hall is on the right. Sadly, the beautiful Methodist Church was destroyed in the Clayton Fire but the Social Hall where we meet was spared. We have felt that moving our meetings to the south end of the county for half of our season is a way to accommodate all of our Redbud Audubon members county-wide. Hope to see you there!

## ***Redbud Audubon speaker to offer vital information on ticks and Lyme Disease***



*Jo Ellis, Bay Area Lyme Foundation*

### **FEBRUARY MEETING**

**Thursday, February 21**

- **Topic:** Ticks and Lyme Disease
- **Speaker:** Jo Ellis,  
Bay Area Lyme Foundation
- **Refreshments:** 7 pm  
**Announcements:** 7:15 pm  
**Program:** 7:30 pm
- **Location:** Methodist Church  
Social Hall, 16255 Second St.  
in Lower Lake

At the Thursday, Feb. 21 Redbud Audubon Society program, Jo Ellis of the Bay Area Lyme Foundation will discuss the many Tick-borne diseases that are on the rise throughout the US. "It is very important that people working or recreating outdoors become aware of the risks around tick bites to protect themselves. It's vital to understand the potential long-term, serious impact of a tick bite, recognize the early symptoms of a tick-borne infection,

know how to advocate for yourself with medical professionals, and know the correct treatment protocols," Ellis states.

Ellis, from the Bay Area Lyme Foundation, will give the latest hard facts about Lyme and tick-borne diseases in the US, plus offer relevant materials, giveaways, and signage that can be put to use immediately. Bay Area Lyme Foundation is primarily a medical



*In California, infected ticks are found in 42 of 58 counties*

*(Continued on page 7)*

# *President's Message*

*by President Roberta Lyons*



## *What does “A Sense of Place,” mean?*

I’ve been thinking about the concept of a “Sense of Place,” lately. I have my own idea of what that term means – a deep connection to a place – the land and people of a particular area. But, since it is a well-used “buzz word,” now, I thought I should Google it to find out what more erudite and deep thinkers than I have to say about the term. So, I did, and of course there was quite a store of opinion and comments and a great YouTube video which I found very helpful.

Basically it means what most of us take it to mean: a deep, emotional connection to a particular place, both to the place itself and the people who inhabit it. A place with special meaning or strong identity that is deeply

felt. There were some other neat ideas though expressed by sociologists and other thinkers. One that caught my interest was the idea that children develop a “primal landscape,” based on where they grow up. That would certainly hold true for me and my deep feelings towards Clear Lake. I grew up on Clear Lake. I swam in it almost every day in the summer and often sat by it on windy winter days feeling moody and entranced by the lake’s dark power as waves crashed onto the shore. “Primal landscape,” is the idea that your experiences of childhood form your identity and also create a baseline sense of landscape.

Jennifer E. Cross with Colorado State University wrote a paper about the different types of “Sense of Place,” and also, what has been observed as the opposite of a “Sense of Place.” I’m sure many of you, just like me, have run into people who basically “hate,” it here. They can’t wait to leave, think the lake is smelly and polluted and find the people small-minded and cliquish.

Cross also points out, however, that one need not have to live in a place for 60 years, or even 5 years, to feel that special Sense of Place. She notes that “whether one is a long-time resident or a newcomer, spending time in a place creates memories and experiences, which become part of a person’s individual and community identity.” She also points out that there are many people who are able to create a sense of place no matter where they are. They move often and feel quite at home and happy wherever they end up.

Sadly, a Sense of Place can also be painful. I won’t list the many environmental and habitat features that have been damaged or destroyed during my long residency here (60 years). I take heart in what remains and take some satisfaction in being part of a varied group of people who have worked hard over the years to protect what we can of our unique and beautiful landscape and most especially our unique and beautiful lake.

So to conclude, I will just say that I’m a complete and total fan of Lake County, Clear Lake, and the wonderful people who live here. This has always been my true home and it is most definitely where I feel my “Sense of Place.”

## *Please provide us with your email*

A number of our members have emailed us at [redbud.audubon@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:redbud.audubon@gmail.com), and, if you wish, let us know in what areas you feel you can help.

## *Welcome new and returning members*

Betty Clayton, Clearlake Oaks; Lynne Demele, Kelseyville; Jeff Henderson, Clearlake; Nancy Hodges, Kelseyville; Chiyako Ito, Hidden Valley Lake; Randy Norris, Clearlake; Catherine Quistgard, Kelseyville; and Deanna Tunstall, Kelseyville.

## REDBUD AUDUBON BOARD OF DIRECTORS



### OFFICERS

*President:* Roberta Lyons

*Vice President:* Open

*Treasurer:* Nicola Selph

*Secretary:* Katherine Lindsley

*Past-President:* Marilyn Waits

### CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Bird Observations - Jerry White

Christmas Bird Count - Brad and Kathy Barnwell

Conservation - Roberta Lyons & Evelyn Wachtel

Education - Lisa Prather

Field Trips - Pat Harmon

Grebe Project Manager - Marilyn Waits

Historian - Pat Harmon

Hospitality - Pat Harmon

Member-at-Large- Tina Wasson

Membership Manager - Susanne Scholz

Newsletter Editor - Roberta Lyons

Newsletter Email Distribution - Lisa Prather

Newsletter Production - Jim Scholz

Programs - Marilyn Waits

Publicity - Roberta Lyons

Webmaster and Social Media - Bonnie Thompson

**To contact a board member:**

**Phone 707/ 263-8030**

**Email: [redbud.audubon@gmail.com](mailto:redbud.audubon@gmail.com)**





*Male Western Bluebird using one suitable box design.*

## ***Is your backyard bluebird box a tragedy in the making?***

**Editors Note:** This article is courtesy of Gillian Martin of the Cavity Conservation organization. The article contains pertinent information for anyone installing and maintaining nest boxes, not only for bluebirds but tree-swallows, fly-catchers, titmouse, nuthatch and others.

Is the lawn-loving, urban-friendly bluebird visiting your yard to forage for insects or seek a tree hole in which to nest? Installing a nest box can be beneficial and a source of much entertainment. But problems can develop when proven methods of helping them are not followed. Emergency calls received by the North American Bluebird Society and its 40+ State-wide affiliates lead experts to believe that millions of people who provide nest boxes for bluebirds do more harm than good. Here's what you need to know.

### **The right box in the right place is key**

A safe box for bluebirds is about 10" tall with an inside floor dimension of 5" by 5." The wood should be about 3/4" thick and the hole should be 1 1/2" or 1 9/16" in diameter. It should have a door that opens for easy cleaning and have no perching post. A good box design is available at [www.socalbluebirds.org](http://www.socalbluebirds.org). Small, thin, decorative birdhouses that do not have a door that opens, are placed low to the ground, and in direct sunlight, can lead to tragedy. If these unsuitable boxes must be placed in the landscape, it's best to remove the bottom or plug the holes to prevent them from being used. Did you know that native House



*House wrens take over boxes and may kill bluebirds.  
Photo by Sandrine Biziaux Scherson*



*Decorative boxes near bluebird nest boxes can spell tragedy.*

Wrens commonly occupy decorative boxes? Their highly territorial aggression during the nesting season is often deadly to other nesting songbirds. Placing

*(Continued on page 5)*

(Continued from page 4)

bluebird boxes in House Wren habitat can set the former up for failure. A pair of breeding bluebirds needs about two acres of low grass. If your lawn and those nearby collectively provide approximately that amount, bluebirds may successfully breed.

#### **Two non-native birds harm bluebirds**

The European Starling is less of a problem when the right box design is used because the starling is too large to fit through the recommended size hole. The second bird, the House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) easily fits the size hole needed by bluebirds. Sadly, it often kills bluebirds or destroys their eggs. Birdhouses for bluebirds should not be used if House Sparrows reside nearby.

#### **Outdoor cats and nest boxes are a deadly combination.**

Cats are not native American wildlife and native birds have not evolved with these excellent predators. Millions of birds are killed annually by cats. Locations where feral or pet cats roam are no place for a nest box. If a parent bird is killed some chicks will likely die because a single parent cannot feed a full clutch. Baby birds just out of the box and learning to fly are especially vulnerable to cats.

#### **Shaded locations can be life savers**

In areas where spring and summer temperatures can get very high, it is important to place the box in a well-shaded area because the internal temperature of the box can be substantially higher. Prolonged high temperatures can affect the health of parents and kill nestlings. Side-ventilation holes are beneficial. Painting boxes a light color to reflect heat is also recommended.

#### **Busy feeders near nest boxes are risky**

Having a nest box in your yard while also enticing as many birds as possible with seed, mealworms, nectar, suet, bread, etc. increases stress for the nesting bluebirds. This is especially so if your yard is small and the feeder is nearby. Feeders also draw snakes, rodents and hawks. 'Intruders' and potential predators require parents to divert a lot of energy to defend their nesting area. It is safest to have no feeders if nest boxes are present, but if you feed birds in the nesting season (generally February through August), consider using niger and safflower seeds. They do not appeal to House Sparrows. Mealworms can be offered exclusively to bluebirds if safely done.

#### **Be aware of other dangers**

These include all kinds of string, frayed blue tarps,

## ***Heron Days planned for April 27 & 28 and May 4 & 5***

It's time to put the annual Redbud Audubon Heron Days event on your calendar! This year, we will continue to follow the format we started last year with Heron Days taking place over two weekends at each of the two locations: Lakeside County Park on Saturday and Sunday, April 27 and 28 and at Clear Lake Campground on Cache Creek in Clearlake on May 4 and 5.

The 90 minute tours will leave between the hours of 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. The tour fee is \$30. Tours from Lakeside County Park follow the shoreline where numerous grebes, cormorants and other wildlife can be viewed as well as an active Great-blue Heron rookery, or nesting site. The trip from Clear Lake Campground travels into Anderson Marsh and along Cache Creek, which is the location of another heron rookery and may be hosting nesting and mating Western and Clarks Grebes. Registration will open soon and will be available on the Redbud Audubon website: [www.redbudaudubon.org](http://www.redbudaudubon.org).

ribbon, Easter grass and yarn. When birds weave these materials into their nest, strangulation or trapping can occur. Raccoons and snakes are frequent predators in many places and methods to deter them are necessary to bird survival in nest boxes. Likewise Argentine and Fire ants are ubiquitous and must be kept out of boxes because they also kill birds. Other dangers include chimneys and vertical pipes. When the latter are 1-10 inches in diameter they attract songbirds looking for a cavity. The straight, smooth sides of the pipe traps birds. Options include removing the pipe, capping, screening or filling them with dirt, rocks or concrete.

Explore the following websites for suggestions for predator guards and other resources for nest box owners: [www.socalbluebirds.org](http://www.socalbluebirds.org), [www.sialis.org](http://www.sialis.org), and [www.nabluebirdsociety.org](http://www.nabluebirdsociety.org).

If a bird is injured or a baby bird has fallen from the nest learn what to do and not to do by going to:

(Continued on page 6)



## Is your backyard bluebird box a tragedy in the making?

(Continued from page 5)

<http://www.songbirdcareandeducation.org/foundababybird.html>

To find a certified wildlife rehabilitation center that works with songbirds go to:

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Laboratories/Wildlife-Investigations/Rehab/Facilities>

### More ways you can help bluebirds.

Did you know you can also help bluebirds by volunteering to monitor an existing trail of boxes that is already used by bluebirds? Bluebird Societies frequently need to fill the shoes of retiring monitors. These trails are usually in highly suitable habitats which ensure greater breeding success long term. Your nearest Bluebird Society likely has a trail calling your name!

### Dead trees exceed the benefits of nest boxes

In a natural world, bluebirds and many other cavity nesting species nest in tree holes most often excavated and later vacated by woodpeckers. In urban areas dying trees are removed by people for safety and aesthetic reasons and because they are unaware of their tremendous habitat value. It surprises many to learn that, in some cases, a dead tree can be safely managed and monitored. *It's important to first ask a certified arborist and tree-risk assessor* if a dead tree needs to be removed completely, or perhaps if part of a dead limb *in a live tree* can be saved. Encouraging the safe retention and management of standing dead trees in appropriate circumstances and locations is critical. Doing so benefits the health of urban forests overall and reduces reliance of birds on human made artificial cavities.

Healthy and diverse urban forests should continue to be an important goal for the benefit of all wildlife and people, and to offset climate change. To learn more about dead tree selection and management, and to order a Wildlife Tree sign for a safely managed dead tree, please visit [www.CavityConservation.com](http://www.CavityConservation.com)



*Man-made materials entangle birds. Photo by James Emmett Rogers*

## Volunteers gave 2,150 total hours to Redbud last year!

The Redbud Board of Directors has just completed our required Annual Chapter Report to National Audubon for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2018. The report includes both statistics on our activities and brief narrative descriptions of our accomplishments.

One question requires us to document the number of volunteers and hours spent to carry out the chapter's mission in this 12-month period. The results are shown below. For a small chapter with a limited number of active members, it is impressive to see how much we did last year.

Heartfelt appreciation to the 80 individuals whose commitment and enthusiasm led to this success. Thank you!

### Annual Summary of Redbud Volunteer Hours July 2017 - June 2018

# Volunteers**	Hours	Activity
24	541	Heron Days
7	524	Grebe Conservation Project
33	274	Christmas Bird Count
8	244	Board Meetings
1	103	Newsletter
2	99	Chapter Meetings
1	76	Bird Observation Records/ Checklist
3	53	Membership
2	45	Conservation Issues
2	37	Education
7	28	Pear Festival
3	28	Field Trips
2	25	Responses to Public Inquiries
3	24	Regional Council Meeting
2	21	National Audubon Annual Report
2	15	Website and Facebook
1	13	Historian
80**	2,150	Total volunteers and hours

\*\* Each activity lists the number of participating volunteers. But, because one person may give hours to many different activities, the total at the bottom counts each individual only once.



## ***Redbud Audubon speaker to offer vital information on ticks and Lyme Disease***

*(Continued from page 1)*

research foundation. Their mission is to make Lyme disease easy to diagnose and simple to cure.

This presentation will cover topics such as how to prevent tick bites; how to recognize the symptoms of Lyme; what kind of rashes to watch for; which tick removal strategies are effective; how to save a tick for testing; and answer issues in current diagnostics like why is it so hard to diagnose Lyme.

### **Lyme disease is expanding at a startling rate**

Lyme disease is the fastest-growing vector-borne disease in the US today. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates 330,000 NEW cases every year. This is an increase of up to 10 times what was previously believed.

In California, infected ticks are found in 42 of 58 counties. Lyme disease has been reported in 49 of 50 states and 65 countries worldwide

Colloquially referred to as "nature's dirty needles," ticks harbor a wide range of bacteria, viruses and parasites that can cause serious, even deadly, diseases in humans.

Knowing how to protect yourself and your family is key to enjoying the outdoors.

### **California is a hotspot for the disease**

The disease was first discovered in New England (Lyme, Connecticut) and has been expanding its footprint across the country with hot spots in the northern Midwest and on the coast in California.

On the West Coast, the primary carrier is

the [Western blacklegged tick](#), or *Ixodes pacificus*, and its principal host the grey squirrel. (This differs from the East Coast where the Eastern Blacklegged tick, *Ixodes scapularis*, is the principal carrier and the white-footed mouse its primary host.).

### **Diagnosis and treatment can be challenging**

Lyme disease can be a confusing and frustrating experience. With symptoms that can be difficult to diagnose, limited public awareness, and plenty of contradictory information and points of view about treatments, prognosis, and scope, Lyme disease can also feel very isolating. Early treatment is typically successful, but many patients go undiagnosed for years.

Current diagnostics miss up to 60% of acute cases. The current "gold standard" diagnostic for Lyme disease is a [two-tiered ELISA/Western Blot blood test](#) measuring human antibodies against [Borrelia burgdorferi](#). This diagnostic is an indirect measure of infection, detecting the body's immunologic response to infection rather than detecting the Lyme bacteria itself. It misses up to 60% of cases of early-stage Lyme disease, as it can take weeks for the body to develop measurable antibodies against the infection.

Jo Ellis has 20+ years of experience developing and marketing educational programming for schools, non-profits, and corporations. A native of the United Kingdom, Jo received her BA/MA from Cambridge University and holds a post-graduate high-school teaching certification from the University of London.

## ***Membership explained***

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](http://www.redbudaudubon.org) and click on membership for further details. 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](mailto: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.

# Christmas Bird Count numbers reported

By Kathy Barnwell

The 44<sup>th</sup> Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is in the books, and after reviewing and eliminating possible double counted birds, the total species remains at one hundred twenty-two (122) species seen on the Red-bud Audubon 2018 Christmas Bird Count held December 15, 2018. It's the third year in a row that we did not see at least 130 species, and the fifth time in the last twenty-one years that our count was below 130 species. In the last twenty-one years the highest count was 153 in 2007, and the lowest was 122 in 2003, which we matched this year.

The weather was cool with light rain and cloudy conditions all day. The low temperature reported was 40 and the high was 54. We had 39 participants, two more than last year, but below the average of 48 participants each year from 2007 through 2016.

Despite the rainy conditions, the total number of birds seen was 51,683, which is the third highest number, behind 2004 with 135,312 and 2017 with 68,266.

The rare birds seen this year were the Mute Swan, Red-necked Grebe, Yellow Warbler and Great-tailed Grackle. The Red-necked Grebe is an extremely rare bird in the county; and this is the first sighting of a Mute Swan, the second winter sighting of the Great-tailed Grackle, and the third winter sighting of a Yellow Warbler. Other high numbers included 9 common loons, 2,411 American White Pelicans, 227 Great Egrets, 6 Osprey, 8 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, 144 Eurasian Collared-Doves, 32 Belted Kingfishers, 85 Black Phoebe's, and 10 Say's Phoebe's.

For the second year in a row, the Western/Clark's Grebes win the prize of the highest number with 16,691, which is lower than the 25,235 counted last year. However, several others had high counts, including 385 Common Goldeneye (vs. 43 last year); 61 Ring-necked Ducks; 1,217 Common Mergansers; 11 Ring-necked Pheasants; 204 Pied-billed Grebes; 2,123 Double-crested Cormorants; 54 Great Blue Herons; 51 Black-crowned Night Herons; 11 Bald Eagles; 32 Red-shouldered Hawks; 53 Red-tailed Hawks; 22 American Kestrels; 2,266 American Coots; 1,396 Bonaparte's Gulls; 328 Ring-billed Gulls; 4,026 American Robins; 52 Cedar Waxwings; and 71 House Sparrows.

Lower than usual numbers include 63 Northern

Shovelers; 28 Eared Grebes; 70 Mourning Doves; 1 Red-breasted Sapsucker; 13 Stellar's Jays; 1 Chestnut-backed Chickadee; 31 House Finches; and 123 Lesser Goldfinches. The numbers were lower for White-crowned Sparrows at 193, Golden-crowned Sparrows at 268, and Dark-eyed Juncos at 198.

We truly appreciate all the participants and their support and efforts in making the bird count as accurate and complete as possible. Please join us next year for the 120<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Bird Count, which will be held Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

	<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
1	Canada Goose	180
2	Mute Swan	1
3	Wood Duck	20
4	Gadwall	54
5	American Wigeon	10
6	Mallard	393
7	Northern Shoveler	63
8	Green-winged Teal	4
9	Canvasback	13
10	Redhead	1
11	Ring-necked Duck	61
12	Greater Scaup	14
13	Lesser Scaup	6
14	Bufflehead	409
15	Common Goldeneye	385
16	Barrow's Goldeneye	1
17	Hooded Merganser	16
18	Common Merganser	1217
19	Red-breasted Merganser	2
20	Ruddy Duck	6977
21	California Quail	198
22	Ring-necked Pheasant	11
23	Wild Turkey	96
24	Common Loon	9
25	Pied-billed Grebe	204
26	Horned Grebe	48
27	Red-necked Grebe	1
28	Eared Grebe	28
29	Western Grebe	7940
30	Clark's Grebe	2516
*	Aechmophorus sp.	8235
31	Double-Cr Cormorant	2123
32	American White Pelican	2411
33	Great Blue Heron	56
34	Great Egret	227
35	Snowy Egret	4
36	Green Heron	2
37	Black-cr Night Heron	51
38	Turkey Vulture	178
39	Osprey	6
40	White-tailed Kite	5
41	Northern Harrier	3
42	Sharp-shinned Hawk	4
43	Cooper's Hawk	4
44	Bald Eagle	11



45	Red-shouldered Hawk	32
46	Red-tailed Hawk	53
47	Virginia Rail	2
48	American Coot	2266
49	Spotted Sandpiper	2
50	Wilson's Snipe	2
51	Bonaparte's Gull	1396
52	Mew Gull	2
53	Ring-billed Gull	328
54	California Gull	1997
55	Herring Gull	392
56	Thayer's Gull	7
57	Glaucous-winged Gull	2
*	Gull sp.	976
58	Rock Pigeon	83
59	Eurasian Collared Dove	144
60	Mourning Dove	70
61	Western Screech Owl	2
62	Great Horned Owl	4
63	Anna's Hummingbird	61
64	Belted Kingfisher	32
65	Acorn Woodpecker	136
66	Red-breasted Sapsucker	1
67	Nuttall's Woodpecker	35
68	Downy Woodpecker	7
69	Hairy Woodpecker	1
*	Downey/Hairy sp	2
70	Northern Flicker	74
71	Pileated Woodpecker	1
72	American Kestrel	22
73	Merlin	1
74	Peregrine Falcon	1
75	Black Phoebe	85
76	Say's Phoebe	8
77	Steller's Jay	13
78	California Scrub-Jay	149
79	American Crow	303
80	Common Raven	107
81	Chestnut-bckd Chickadee	1
82	Oak Titmouse	98
83	Bushtit	213
84	White-breasted Nuthatch	49
85	Brown Creeper	6
86	Marsh Wren	6
87	Bewick's Wren	14
88	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	8
89	Golden-crowned Kinglet	1
90	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	84
91	Wrentit	10
92	Western Bluebird	133
93	Hermit Thrush	7
94	American Robin	4026
95	California Thrasher	2
96	Northern Mockingbird	52
97	European Starling	891
98	American Pipit	3
99	Cedar Waxwing	52
100	Phainopepla	4
101	Yellow Warbler	1
102	Yellow-rumped (form ?)	107
*	Yellow-rumped (Myrtle's)	0
*	Yellow-rumped(Audubon's)	10
103	Townsend's Warbler	1

104	Fox Sparrow	15
*	Pink-sided Junco	1
105	Dark-eyed Junco - OR	198
106	White-crowned Sparrow	193
107	Golden-crowned Sparrow	268
108	Bell's Sparrow	2
109	Savannah Sparrow	6
110	Song Sparrow	19
111	Lincoln's Sparrow	3
112	California Towhee	109
113	Spotted Towhee	83
114	Red-winged Blackbird	454
115	Western Meadowlark	94
116	Great-tailed Grackle	6
117	Brewer's Blackbird	941
118	Brown-headed Cowbird	2
*	Blackbird Sp.	250
119	House Finch	31
120	Lesser Goldfinch	123
121	American Goldfinch	38
122	House Sparrow	71
	TOTAL BIRDS	51683
	TOTAL SPECIES	122

These numbers are used to track the number of birds seen, but are not separate species, and are not included in the Total Species count.

## Join The Great Backyard Bird Count for 2019

Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the Great Backyard Bird Count was the first online citizen-science project to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real-time.

More than 160,000 people of all ages join the four-day count each February to create an annual snapshot of the distribution of birds.

We invite you to participate. Simply tally the numbers and kinds of birds you see for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count, February 15, 16, 17 and 18. You can count from any location, anywhere in the world, for as long as you wish! If you're new to the count, or have not participated since before the 2013 merger with eBird, you must create a free online account to enter your checklist. Go to [gbbc.birdcount.org](http://gbbc.birdcount.org). If you already have an account, just use the same login name and password.

In 2016, GBBC participants in more than 130 countries counted 5,689 species of birds on more than 162,000 checklists! Your help is needed to make the GBBC successful!



*Despite the “government shutdown,” Redbud Audubon Society members and guests traveled to the Colusa and Sacramento National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs) on Jan. 19 for its annual field trip. As usual it was a great day with lots of beautiful sightings, including this heard of Tule Elk that is usually seen off of Highway 20 on the way over to the Valley.*



*A handsome bull Tule Elk.*



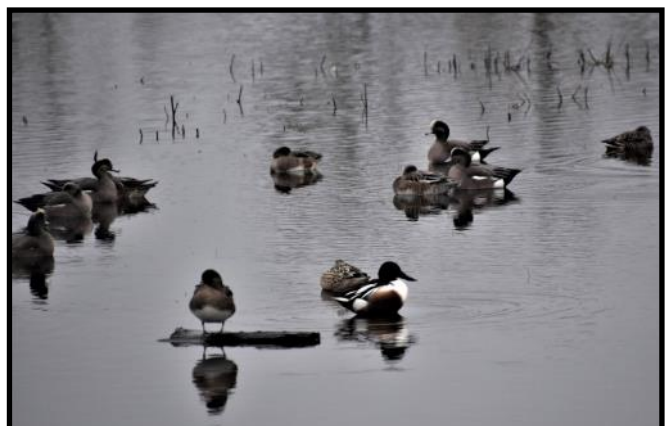
*Susanne Scholz and Pat Harmon confirm a Ross Goose sighting at Colusa.*



*Nicola Selph, Janet Swedberg and Kathy Corner at Colusa NWR.*



*Marie Baker and Pat Harmon check out the numerous dabbling and diving ducks and geese at the Colusa NWR.*



*Shovelers and Widgeons are a common sight at the NWRs.*



*A Bald Eagle was also spotted on the NWR Field Trip. Photo by Brad Barnwell*

## ***Annual NWR Field Trip garnered great sightings***

The annual Redbud Audubon Society field trip to the Colusa and Sacramento National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs) was a great day, despite the government shutdown! The trip to Colusa had Susanne Scholz spotting a Ross Goose, often hard to tell apart from the numerous Snow Geese that inhabit the area.

On the drive into the Sacramento NWR a beautiful Bald Eagle perched very conveniently on a tree next to the road. As usual, numerous Snow Geese and Greater White-fronted geese were viewed. Other species included Northern Shoveler, American Widgeon, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Bufflehead, American Coot, Avocet, a Sora Rail and two Common Gallinule. Many other species were seen as well. Many thanks to Kathy Barnwell for keeping track of the birds we saw and entering them into the ebird website.

It is always a fun day to travel to the NWRs with our expert birders in Redbud Audubon, especially if you are a novice and enjoy having species identified. Another highlight of the trip for a few folks was seeing a Vermillion Flycatcher that had been reported at the cemetery in Maxwell. A few people traveled there to see it and they were not disappointed. The Vermillion Flycatcher usually hangs out in the Southwest, but according to reports this one has returned to Maxwell for the last three years.

All in all, it was another fabulous Redbud Audubon day with great friends and guests. If you haven't been on one of these field trips, please join us!

## ***February Field Trip to Clear Lake State Park***

The Feb. 23 Redbud Audubon Society Field Trip will be at the Clear Lake State Park on Soda Bay Road. This is always a great walk with the likelihood of seeing numerous songbirds and wildfowl as well as raptors, Great Blue Herons, and egrets.

Please check in at the gate and pay the entry fee if required. Participants will meet in the parking lot area near the visitor's center and begin the walk at 9 a.m. As with all Audubon events, the public is cordially invited to join us. For information call (707)263-4977.

### **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.

#### **February 23**

Clear Lake State Park  
Soda Bay Rd. Kelseyville

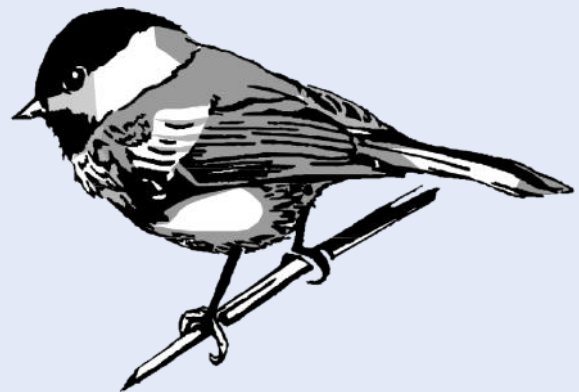
#### **March 23**

Lakeside County Park, Kelseyville

#### **April 27-28-Heron Days**

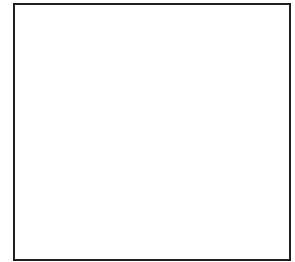
#### **May 4-5-Heron Days**

#### **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](http://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*