



The Western Grebe

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

www.redbudaudubon.org

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Bird Identification is topic for December Audubon meeting

The Dec. 12, 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. 14.

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 common birds is fun and gratifying.

The Barnwells will give a PowerPoint 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 45th 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



Learn to identify the birds of Lake County, like this Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, at the December monthly meeting—just in time for the CBC!

(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.

DECEMBER MEETING Thursday, December 12

- **Topic:** Bird Identification for CBC
- **Speakers:** Brad and Kathy Barnwell
- **Refreshments:** 7 pm
- **Announcements:** 7:15 pm **Program:** 7:30 pm
- **Location:** Presbyterian Church Social Hall, 5430 Third St., Kelseyville.

President's Message by Roberta Lyons

Fun events upcoming, including CBC



This is an exciting month for Audubon chapters across the country as everyone gears up for the annual Christmas Bird Count, or CBC. Redbud Audubon's is slated for Dec. 14 this year and should be a fun day, with groups meeting at each State Park and then other, expert birders fanning out across the count circle to count every bird they see.

I always have other commitments on count day, but I am able to count the birds at my feeder in the morning and they count just as much as the others. I hope those two Townsends Warblers that I saw recently at my bird bath will show up!

We had a fabulous field trip on Saturday, Nov. 23. Many thanks to Brad and Kathy Barnwell who had been to the Reclamation Area trails and ponds and were able to point out many unusual sightings for Lake County, including numerous Green-winged Teal and Virginia Rail. We also saw three Bald Eagles! It was a fun day with a fun group of people. Please join us on one of our field trips, you will love it.

Other fun events on the calendar include a First Day Hike at each State Park (check out the info in this newsletter). Some people may want to attend both hikes as the one at Clear Lake State Park is at 9 a.m. and the one at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park starts at noon.

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.





This Red-shouldered hawk is just one of the birds you may tally at the annual Christmas Bird Count.

Redbud Audubon to participate in annual Christmas Bird Count on December 14

This year, the annual Clear Lake Christmas Bird Count, held by the Redbud Audubon Society, will be on Saturday, Dec. 14. The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is a traditional project of Audubon societies around the country.

This is National Audubon's 120th Christmas Bird Count with all counts held between the dates of Saturday, Dec. 14, 2019 through Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020.

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 covers 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,

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REDBUD AUDUBON BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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

Photos by Brad Barnwell



Cinnamon Teal



Wilson's Snipe



Great Horned Owl

Redbud Audubon to participate in annual Christmas Bird Count

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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 45th 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. 12 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 encour-

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Redbud Audubon to participate in annual Christmas Bird Count

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aged to attend. It starts at 7 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church Social Hall in Kelseyville.

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.



Belted Kingfisher



Green Heron

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 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.



There was lots to see on the Nov. 23 Redbud Audubon Field Trip.



Folks gather at the beginning of the field trip to learn about the lay of the land and the story of the Reclamation District.



Brad Barnwell explains some features of the area to Donna Mackiewicz.

Reclamation Area field trip was fun and productive day of birding

It was a beautiful crisp morning when 20 people, guided by Brad Barnwell, birded The Reclamation Area near Upper Lake. On a 1.7 mile walk the group saw 33 species. Some of the highlights of the day included:

Green-winged Teal

Northern Shoveler

Virgia Rail

Snipe

Long-billed Dowitcher

American Kestrel

Bonaparts Gull

Bald Eagle

Belted Kingfisher

Savannah Sparrow

Greater Yellowlegs

Marsh Wren

Great Egret

Also seen were many other species like Brewer's Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird, House Finch, Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Harrier, Great Blue Heron, Double-crested Cormorant, Common Raven, Song Sparrow, Pied-billed Grebe, Mallard, Scrub Jay, Turkey Vulture, Clark's Grebe, Western Grebe, and Canada Goose.



Audubon member and volunteer Rob Patton enjoys a view of a Long-billed Dowitcher.

Field Trip Calendar

Following is the field trip calendar for the Redbud Audubon Society for 2019 – 2020. 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 14

Christmas Bird Count

January 18

National Wildlife Refuges at Colusa and Sacramento – carpool from Lower Lake

February 22

Clear Lake State Park – Soda Bay Road, Kelseyville

March 21

Highlands Springs Reservoir – Lakeport

April 25-26 and May 2-3

Heron Days

May 23

Eel River, Potter Valley

Clear Lake State Park's "First Day Hike"

A new year is beginning and Clear Lake State Park would like to invite you and your family to celebrate the 7th annual **America's State Parks First Day Hikes** by participating in a guided walk in Clear Lake State Park on January 1, 2020 at 9 AM

Meet with Clear Lake State Park Volunteers Brad Barnwell and Bob Schoenherr at the visitor center parking lot to start the walk down the Old Kelsey Creek Trail. Entry into the park for walk participants will be free.

The one-hour, one-mile walk is on an ADA accessible trail that meanders along old Kelsey Creek through the cottonwood and willow trees. The slow pace will give you the opportunity to experience the park's flora and fauna as if you were actually one of the park's wildlife residents.

The winter weather could be brisk and participants should dress appropriately and wear sturdy shoes and bring binoculars, and water. Rain will cancel the walk. No pets please.

Clear Lake State Park is located at 5300 Soda Bay Rd, Kelseyville, CA and entry into the park is free for those attending the walk.

Seventh Annual New Year's Day Walk at Anderson Marsh *Start the New Year off right by joining us for a walk*

Join us on New Year's Day at noon to participate in the seventh annual "First Day Hike" at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park. America's State Parks "First Day Hikes" program offers individuals and families an opportunity to begin the New Year by getting outside, enjoying nature and welcoming the New Year with friends and family.

This family-friendly event begins on Monday, January 1st at 12:00 noon. Members of the Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association (AMIA) will help organize and lead the walk. Participants should wear sturdy shoes and a hat. Bring water, snacks, and binoculars if you have them. Children of all ages are welcome. Because this area is a protected Natural Preserve, no dogs may be brought on this walk.

Hikers will experience grasslands, oak woodlands,

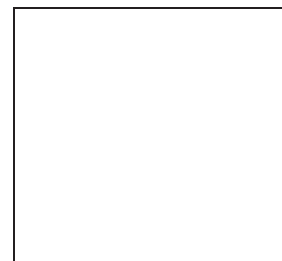
willow and cottonwood riparian habitats and the tule marsh habitat of the Anderson Marsh Natural Preserve, and may encounter a variety of migrating and resident birds and other wildlife.

The hike will be a leisurely 3½-mile loop over the Cache Creek Nature Trail, the Marsh Trail and the Ridge Trail, passing by a vernal pool near the end of the walk.

The hike will take between 2 and 2½ hrs. Steady rain will cancel the walk – to confirm or check for cancellation information, call (707) 995-2658, email info@andersonmarsh.org or visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/AMIA.org.

Join us for a hike in the Park on the first day of 2020! Anderson Marsh State Historic Park is located on Hwy 53, between Lower Lake and Clearlake.

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

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