



The Western Grebe

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

www.redbudaudubon.org

Volume 46 • Issue No. 2 • October, 2020



Common Golden Eyes can be found at the reclamation ponds in Upper Lake and around the lake through May. Photo by Brad Barnwell

Buffleheads are coming soon

By Donna Mackiewicz

October is the month to prepare for Halloween and Lake County birders are anticipating the arrival of the smallest diving duck in North America. Buffleheads are expected to show up the third week of the month. We should be able to enjoy them until mid-May.

These beautiful ducks fly fast with a rapid wing beat and fly close to the water without whistling sounds.

Bufflehead's local predators are Peregrine Falcons. Eagles, Owls and Red-tail and Cooper's Hawk.

Small and compact, this diving duck has a large head and a small gray bill. Females and



The Golden Eye. Photo by Donna Mackiewicz



The Bufflehead is the smallest diving duck in North America. Photo by Brad Barnwell

immature males are gray-brown with white cheek patch. Breeding males are black and white with a large white patch on back of the head. They can be found with a larger duck, Common Goldeneye, at the Reclamation ponds in Upper Lake and around the lake through

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President's Message by Roberta Lyons



It seems that both current and prospective members are often confused about Redbud's membership options. I admit it is a bit confusing, but we do try to

clarify as best we can. Most simply put, you have two choices: (1) a joint membership combining Redbud chapter and National Audubon, or (2) a membership in our Redbud chapter only

We have always encouraged people to support both our chapter and the National organization, but we want people to have the choice to support just our local environmental and birding activities if that is their focus.

Our reason for encouraging support for National Audubon is that their extensive work at both the Federal level and through State Audubon offices around the country has crucial impact on the laws and regulations that can affect both our environmental problems and opportunities within Lake County.

The National Audubon Society is one of the most respected national conservation organizations in the nation. They educate and lobby effectively with National politicians to maintain our environmental protections, as well as institute lawsuits if there is a need. Right now the current Administration is attempting to eliminate many of our long-standing national environmental protections, and National Audubon has been working hard to stop those attempts.

The National and State Audubon organizations also provide nature education ideas and materials to chapters, as well as leadership training for chapter Boards of Directors. Over the decades since Redbud Audubon was founded in 1974, this educational support and training has strengthened our local impact in Lake County. One recent example is our ten-year Grebe Conservation Project. Audubon California obtained the grant funding that enabled this decade-long local outreach and research work on Clear Lake.

A small volunteer-run chapter like ours simply doesn't have the resources to work directly with Federal funding agencies and their complicated grant requirements.

I encourage everyone to join Redbud with whichever membership option they feel comfortable. For myself, I enjoy the sense of participation in being a member of National Audubon, and I appreciate the thoughtful articles I read in the *Audubon* magazine.

Recently, the National Audubon Society, like many organizations, has been looking into its past and having to deal with some uncomfortable truths. One of those uncomfortable truths is about John James Audubon, our namesake. Turns out, John James Audubon was a slave owner and a racist. To quote NAS CEO and President, David Yarnold: "It's fair to describe John James Audubon as a genius, a pioneer, a fabulist, and a man whose actions reflected a dominant white view of the pursuit of scientific knowledge. His contributions to ornithology, art, and culture are enormous, but he was a complex and troubling character who did despicable things." A historian who wrote a recent biography of John James Audubon provides details of how he and his wife bought and sold household slaves as his income increased as his bird drawings became more famous.

I appreciate that the Audubon Society is being honest and out front about this issue. They are not making excuses or trying to hide from the facts, and as Yarnold says: "We owe our membership and others a full accounting and reckoning with our namesake."

NAS has done a creditable job in condemning the role that our namesake played in "perpetuating white supremacist culture," as Yarnold says. At this point, there has not been a suggestion that the name of the organization be changed but that may be something to come in the future.

More importantly, Yarnold is encouraging the expansion of equity and diversity within the National and State Audubon organizations and local chapters as well. We've included this full Audubon policy statement elsewhere in this issue. There are also a number of interesting articles exploring this topic on the NAS website www.audubon.org. I encourage you

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President's Message

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to take a look. This is an important moment when our nation and citizens are considering how to make ourselves a better reflection of our shared ideals.

National Audubon Society's Statement on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

The birds Audubon pledges to protect differ in color, size, behavior, geographical preference, and countless other ways. By honoring and celebrating the equally remarkable diversity of the human species, Audubon will bring new creativity, effectiveness and leadership to our work throughout the hemisphere.

In order to achieve these goals, Audubon has made equity, diversity, and inclusion a strategic imperative. Protecting and conserving nature and the environment transcends political, cultural, and social boundaries. Respect, inclusion, and opportunity for people of all backgrounds, lifestyles, and perspectives will attract the best ideas and harness the greatest passion to shape a healthier, more vibrant future for all of us who share our planet. We are committed to increasing the diversity of our staff, board, volunteers, members, and supporters, and fostering an inclusive network of Audubon Centers and Chapters in all communities, from rural to urban. We respect the individuality of each member of our community, and we are committed to a workplace free of any kind of discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, national or ethnic origin, politics, or veteran status.

Correction

In last month's Western Grebe newsletter we had a wonderful story with images by Henry Bornstein of a nesting Pie-billed Grebe and her chicks. We mistakenly credited Gae Henry for the photos when it was really Henry who took them! Gae takes great photos too so we made the mistake of "assuming," (which one should never do) that they were hers. So sorry Henry!!! And again, thank you for the "Saga of the Pied-billed Grebe," it was a great read and a lot of fun to look at as well.

REDBUD AUDUBON BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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October, the perfect time to set up a bird feeding station

By Donna Mackiewicz

To safely watch and feed birds this fall bring your feeders in really close to your favorite sitting spot by the window. Did you know that birds are killed most frequently at windows 15 to 30 feet from a feeder? Sadly, they can build up enough momentum to kill themselves if they leave a perch as close as 3 feet from a window. But if you bring your feeders in to less than three feet from the window kills drops to zero. Bringing feeders in close will get the best possible views of bird and be protecting them, too. Feeding stations too large to place directly on or right next to windows should be placed at least 30 feet away.

Tray feeders with suction cups and a cushioned brace or small acrylic dishes, suet feeders, and hummingbird tube feeders all can be affixed to windows via suction cups. A tip to get the suction-cup feeders to stick securely is rub a finger on the outside of the nose then rub the suction cup and stick it on the window.

Try a feeder with safflower seeds and for ground feeding birds like Sparrows and Quail, a Dove and Quail mix is good. Another good value is to skip the mixes with milo and go for black oil sunflower. A peanut feeder can be fun and nothing beats a suet feeder for regular visits from woodpeckers, nuthatches, chickadees, titmice, creepers, kinglets, wrens and occasionally warblers. And a thistle feeder will bring in the goldfinches quickly.

Water in a clean, shallow terra cotta dish will see visitors all day for drinking and bathing. Remember if it is clean enough for you to drink out of it is good enough for the birds.

You must change your feeder's sugar water,

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House Finches



Anna's Hummingbird



American Goldfinch

Buffleheads coming soon

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May. To identify the two duck species, remember Buffleheads are like little corks in the water. They dive frequently and pop up and spring into and out of the water. They use their stiff-tails to propel them up and into the water. Common Goldeneye however, while they spend a lot of time under the water, seem to get less excited about their diving than Buffleheads.

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.

Christmas Bird Count Update

Every December, Redbud Audubon holds its annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Tentative plans call for holding the bird count this year on Dec. 19, but we cannot confirm this until Nov. 15.

The National Audubon Society has established two options for CBC compilers. One is to cancel this season's count; the other, and the one Redbud is choosing, is to run a COVID-19 safe and socially distanced CBC if local rules allow. According to the announcement from National, we must wait until Nov. 15, at the earliest, to choose this option in order to better understand the status of COVID outbreak in our region at the time.

Many thanks to count organizers Brad and Kathy Barnwell for being willing to organize our CBC and following the guidelines that will be required in order for us to participate. We will keep you updated and by our November newsletter will be able to say if the count will be held and outline the guidelines everyone will need to follow.

Welcome new and returning members

Welcome new and returning members: Carol Meador, Lakeport; Daphne B. Powell, Lakeport; Eloise Crain, Stonyford; Cherri Giovannini, Cobb; Janet Hagan, Lakeport; and Marion Rita Franklin, Stonyford.

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 a 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.

October is the perfect time to set up a bird feeding station

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even if it looks like it hasn't lost a drop, on a regular basis. During hot weather, change it every few days. In milder weather, once a week is fine.

Suggested birding hot spots: Anderson Marsh State Historic Park, Clearlake State Park, Reclamation Area, Rodman Slough, Redbud Trail at

Cache Creek, boat ramps, beaches, and our county parks. For a complete list of birds of Lake County visit eBird.com: click the Explore button and type Lake CA as your region.

The site also has an Explore Species button that is very helpful.

Lake County Backyard Feeder Bird List – October

Eurasian Collared Dove Mourning Dove Anna's Hummingbird Red-shouldered Hawk Acorn Woodpecker Downy Woodpecker Nuttall's Woodpecker Northern Flicker Black Phoebe	California Scrub-Jay Oak Titmouse Ruby-crowned Kinglet White-breasted Nuthatch Northern Mockingbird Brown Creeper European Starling Western Bluebird American Robin	House Finch American Goldfinch Lesser Goldfinch White-crowned Sparrow Golden-crowned Sparrow California Towhee Yellow-rumped Warbler
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Check out these nature trail cams

A great way to enjoy nature is to click on the links to Bob Schoenherr's YouTube site to view the wonderful trailcams.

By exploring Bob's YouTube channel you can also look at other videos created by him, along with his

[Deer Trail Camera--September 2020](https://youtu.be/75RpGAtM3o4)

<https://youtu.be/75RpGAtM3o4>



**Deer Trail Camera--
September 2020**

able partner Anita Benzing, including videos of Rodman Preserve and other Lake County Land Trust properties.

[Kelsey Slough Trail Camera-- September, 2020](https://youtu.be/Roj_H3qSw7M)

https://youtu.be/Roj_H3qSw7M



**Kelsey Creek
Campground Trail
Camera--September
2020**

Pavilion Trail Camera, September 2020

<https://youtu.be/vCGLoHLeGaU>



 **Pavilion Trail Camera,
September 2020**

Kelsey Creek Campground Trail Camera-- September 2020

<https://youtu.be/1W4SDdFjQow>



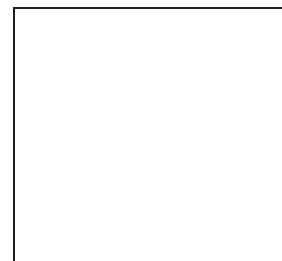
 **Kelsey Slough Trail
Camera-- September,
2020**

Legislative support needed!

Some of our members who are also members of National Audubon may receive 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 representatives in Congress and their email. Your voice is important! Our voices together can make a difference. Redbud Audubon forwards 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.

2019-20 Chapter Financial Report		
Redbud Audubon Society, Inc		
July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020		
Revenues	Audubon Membership Revenue	\$2,160
	Contributions	1,145
	Grebe Conservation Grant	15,997
	Osprey Pole Grant	3,590
	Regional Council Meeting Support	1,000
	Educational Programs & Events (Heron Days)	-110
	Sales (books, booth sales)	490
	Interest	72
	Total income	\$24,344
	Cost of Goods Sold	\$319
	Total Revenue	\$24,025
Expenditures	Administration	\$3,698
	Educational Programs & Events	1,795
	Grebe Conservation Grant	17,925
	Osprey Pole Grant	3,657
	Newsletter Printing/Mailing	2,684
	Marketing Outreach	442
	Storage rental	1,380
	Total Expenditures	\$31,581
	Net Income in Operating Funds	-\$7,556
	Beginning Retained Earnings 6/30/19	\$47,798
	Net Income 2019-2020	-7,556
	Ending Retained Earnings 6/30/20	\$40,242
Assets	Cash & Equivalents (Checking, Savings, etc)	\$39,034
	Inventory Held for Sale	1,368
	Total Assets	\$40,402
Liabilities	Accounts Payable	160
	Total Liabilities	\$160
Funds	Restricted (Grebe Conservation Fund)	0
	Reserved (Osprey Fund)	5,493
	Unreserved (Not Committed)	33,541
	Total Fund Balances	\$39,034

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 joining just 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 donation 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