



The Western Grebe

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

www.redbudaudubon.org

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REDBUD AUDUBON MEETINGS

*Redbud Audubon will
hold a special Bird ID meeting
on Zoom, December 17 at 7 pm*

*A Zoom program meeting is also
planned for January 21, 2021*

DECEMBER CHAPTER MEETING

Thursday, December 17, 7 PM

Topic: Bird Identification Program

Presenters: Doug and Lisa Prather

Program starts at 7 PM

Join Zoom Meeting at:

<https://zoom.us/j/96492303986>

*White-breasted Nuthatch is one of many birds
you will learn to identify during the online Bird
Identification Program. Photo by Brad Barnwell*

Redbud Audubon to hold limited CBC this year but all are welcome to Zoom Bird ID program

This year, the annual Clear Lake Christmas Bird Count, held by the Redbud Audubon Society, will be on Saturday, Dec. 19. The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is a traditional project of Audubon societies around the country. Because of Covid 19 restrictions, only previous participants will be able to take part in the count this year. Because of these restrictions, the number of participants must be limited and the count is not open to the public.

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President's Message

by Roberta Lyons



As we all continue to struggle with the Covid 19 pandemic, I still want to wish everyone an enjoyable holiday season in whatever way you are able to

find to celebrate safely. I know I will be missing my large family get-together, which serves as an annual "reunion," as well as a Christmas celebration. It will just be Harry and me this year, as our daughter Kate is hunkering down in Pittsburgh, PA. Despite the absence of family this year, I feel extremely fortunate that I have a cozy home and lots of places to walk and enjoy nature.

I hope many of you can join Redbud's first Zoom program on our regular chapter meeting night of Thursday, Dec. 17 when Doug and Lisa Prather present our annual Bird Identification program. It should be a very special way to spend an hour or so of your Thursday evening. Although our Christmas Bird

Count will be held on Saturday, Dec. 19, it sadly must be limited to previous participants only. This is because it is too difficult and risky to invite the public and possibly end up with large groups of people, making social distancing and mask enforcement difficult. Also, the two State Parks, where parts of the count are held, require intense Covid 19 protocols that Redbud Audubon is simply unable to comply with—including sanitizing the bathrooms. Meanwhile, we hope everyone can go outside and enjoy the day.

I know I have been seeing some new and interesting birds in my own yard, including a sweet little Brown Creeper. They are not necessarily "rare," in Lake County, but I have never seen one in my yard and seldom see them on walks. They are a lovely little bird.

In January Redbud will host another Zoom meeting, this time a program on the Saw-whet Owl, a small nocturnal creature that has fascinated presenter Ken Sobon, for many years. Ken is Vice-President of Altacal Audubon Society and also serves as the Northern Regional Council representative on the Audubon California Board of Directors.

Please, all, enjoy the holidays, and hopefully we will be able to get together in person in 2021!

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.



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.

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.

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.

REDBUD AUDUBON BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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To contact a board member:

Phone 707/ 263-8030

Email: redbud.audubon@gmail.com



Northern Flicker



Cedar Waxwing



Cinnamon Teal

Redbud Audubon to hold limited CBC this year but all are welcome to Zoom bird ID program

(Continued from page 1)

Prior to the bird count, on Thursday, Dec. 17 starting at 7 p.m. Doug and Lisa Prather will host a Bird Identification program on Zoom that anyone with the use of a computer and access to the internet can attend. This will be an extensive slide show featuring birds that are often seen on the annual count and birds that are common to Lake County. The program emphasizes the field characteristics of the common and some not-so-common birds here.

This is National Audubon's 121st Christmas Bird Count. The official count period is Dec. 14 through Jan. 5, 2021. Every individual bird and species encountered during the day is recorded. 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.

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.

The data collected by each count group are then sent to the National Audubon Headquarters in New York and are made available online.

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 the birds they saw, founding 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.



Pied-billed Grebe

Lake County Birds

*Photos by Brad Barnwell
(more on following pages)*



American White Pelican



Spotted Towhee



Green Heron



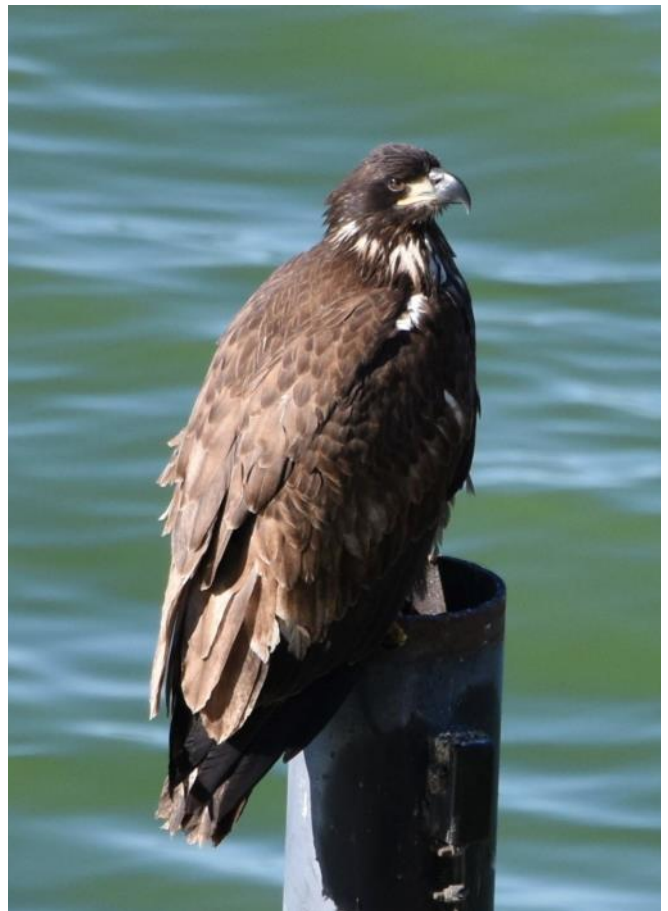
Chestnut-backed Chickadee



Red-shouldered Hawk



Bald Eagle



Juvenile Bald Eagle (Photo by Roberta Lyons)



Meadowlark



American Robin

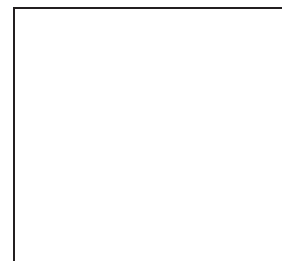


Western Bluebird



Great-horned Owl

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