



# *The Western Grebe*

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

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

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## *“Extraordinary Ordinary Birds of California’s Oak Woodlands”*

Mendocino County resident, Kate Marianchild, naturalist and author of *Secrets of the Oak Woodlands*, will present a Zoom program for the Redbud Audubon Society on Thursday March 18, starting at 7 p.m. entitled “Extraordinary Ordinary Birds of California’s Oak Woodlands.”

In a talk illustrated with audio and video recordings as well as beautiful slides, Marianchild will discuss some of the extraordinary birds that live right here in Lake County: tiny birds who build one of the ten most interesting nests in the world; woodpeckers who live in clans and share everything from food and nests to childcare and

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*Kate Marianchild will present a Zoom program on Extraordinary Ordinary Birds on March 18.*

### **REDBUD AUDUBON**

#### **MARCH CHAPTER MEETING**

**Thursday, March 18, 7 PM**

**Topic: Extraordinary Ordinary Birds  
of California’s Oak Woodlands**

**Presenter: Kate Marianchild, naturalist and author**

**To register for this Zoom meeting, click link:**

**[Redbud Audubon Program Registration](#)**

Or scan the following QR code:



# *President's Message*

*by Roberta Lyons*

## **Popular Zoom meetings may be here to stay—at least during winter months**



*Roberta Lyons*

When I sit down to write my monthly President's message for the Western Grebe, I often look at past newsletters (so I don't end up repeating myself) and also to get ideas. Well, this month took me back to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and shutdown of

the County. We had a program planned for March featuring Dorothy Leland, who was going to present on "What birders need to know about ticks."

As we all know, that program was cancelled, along with all of our remaining programs and field trips, Heron Days and our annual picnic. We glided into the spring assuming we would probably "go dark," for a few months, at least. But it has been one year.

And, sadly, we will not have Heron Days this spring either and have not started up any of our field trips. However, we have had three successful Zoom program meetings and are looking forward to this month's Zoom program presented by Kate Mari-anchild.

At first, we didn't know if we had the skills to "do Zoom," but Board member and Education Chair Lisa Prather does have the skills and has graciously facilitated our Zoom efforts. Thank you Lisa! In fact, we

have discovered that we are getting more attendees for our Zoom programs than we did for some of our in-person events. Naturally this has raised some questions about when we finally do open up, will we want to continue Zooming our monthly programs or go back to the former in-person format?

I'm conflicted. I love seeing everyone in person. I love Pat Harmon's cookies and treats (our Hospitality Chair and Redbud baker par excellence!) It is enjoyable to be able visit in person with members and guests. The Zoom program does not currently include a socializing time. On the other hand, on a cold rainy winter night it is helpful to not have to drive to Kelseyville or Lower Lake for the program. We also have many members who cannot drive at night because of eyesight issues. Also, we're getting attendees on Zoom who have moved away from Lake County but remain members.

This issue is certainly something we will be considering and will want to hear opinions from our members. My thoughts are that we could do both, In the Fall, before Daylight Savings ends, we could continue to meet in Kelseyville (and/or Lower Lake) and during the dark depths of winter, do Zoom programs.

For now, I'm grateful that we are able to present the Zoom programs to you and we hope you enjoy them. And, we look forward to resuming our walks and field trips and Heron Days in 2021-2022.

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## ***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.



*This Red-tailed Hawk, injured and desperate, was lucky to land in the yard of Dave and Mary Borjon in Kelseyville.*

## Red-tailed Hawk rescued by Kelseyville couple

***Editors Note:** It is always great news when we hear of a successful bird rescue. That's why I wanted to publish this account by Mary Borjon in this month's newsletter. Mary and her husband Dave successfully rescued a Red-tailed Hawk they found at their front door. We can all use a little good news! We'll let Mary tell the story:*

**By Mary Borjon, Kelseyville (written on Jan. 30)**

This morning Dave opened our front door only to find a large hawk sitting on the front step rail.

The hawk then jumped to the lawn with one of his wings askew. We called the bird rescue site and were told we would need to capture it and bring it in, being

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# *Bluebird trails are an important way to help our native cavity-nesting birds*

**By Donna Mackiewicz, Redbud Audubon Society Vice-President**

Bluebird trail monitoring is extremely rewarding! I had no idea the joys of bluebirds until I began building nest boxes as part of a badge with Girl Scout Troop #222 in 2004. When I saw young children so filled with joy and wonder as we opened the box for monitoring and saw our first eggs, I was hooked. Then when they saw the newly hatched, well, it was a discovery I had to act on. Over the next 17 years I've been involved in hundreds of nest boxes with just as many young people experiencing a life-long love of nature.

Bluebirds need our help. Climate change, extreme fires, increased temperatures and less insects are just a few reasons to get involved.

In extreme heat in past Oklahoma summers, before moving to Lake County two years ago, I witnessed bluebirds lose their families, I became determined to troubleshoot this and get a proper nest box installed for them in the right habitat to use in the future that would give them a safer place to nest and successfully bring up a family—call out to their young that it was time to leave the box and come into the world. Once I witnessed for myself maiden flights (called fledging) of healthy baby bluebirds, I knew I had to keep spreading the love of bluebirds.

I learned in my research why the numbers of the three species of bluebirds in North America declined drastically in the past century and all the challenges they still face. Nest boxes need designs that have predator guards, give excellent ventilation on those very hot days, good floor drainage to help keep nests dry, the right amount of space inside the box for the nestlings as they develop and grow. The boxes need to be easily opened for safe observation, troubleshoot-ing issues and problems, cleaning out the soiled nests yet be secure when closed, and have a sloped roof with a large overhang that repels rainwater.

Lake County lost so many trees in the wildfires it is time to take action before it is too late. If you would like to join in monitoring and perhaps setting up your own bluebird trail, Redbud Audubon will be happy to train and get you started and be around as your trail



*Tree-swallows make good use of nest boxes.*

progresses.

Bluebirds will always be in need of human assistance to continue to thrive in the future. Too many problems can take place in putting up a nest box and then leaving it unattended. The box needs to be monitored, maintained and repaired. We do not want the non-native House Sparrow taking over these boxes. If

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*Soon Bluebirds will be hatching and fledging, like these pictured at one of the nest boxes at Rodman Preserve.*



## ***“Extraordinary Ordinary Birds of California’s Oak Woodlands”***

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mates; and ducks who eat acorns and set off on “quad-athlons” when they are two days old.

Supporting a whopping 262 species, oak woodlands are California’s premier bird habitat and the nation’s third most important bird habitat. Many of those 262 species are so familiar to most people that they dismiss them as ordinary. But are any of them actually ordinary? “No,” says Marianchild. “Each one has had to acquire its own unique characteristics and behaviors, and some are truly extraordinary.”

Attendees will learn about little gray-brown birds who give each other showers and groom each others’ armpits; a riparian species whose members walk on river bottoms; and jays whose intelligence rivals that of chimpanzees. The talk will conclude with “The Great Blue Heron and the Chorus Frogs,” a true story with a surprise ending.

This presentation will open your eyes to the marvelous survival strategies, behaviors, and social structures of birds we see every day in California’s oak woodlands, and these birds will never again seem ordinary.

As with all of Redbud Audubon’s Zoom programs, participants are asked to register so the host can send you the link for the meeting. To register for the program click on this link: [Redbud Audubon Program Registration](https://www.redbudaudubon.org/Registration) or go to [www.redbudaudubon.org](https://www.redbudaudubon.org) and click on this same link on the home page of the web-

site. Submitting the form will register you for the meeting. Participants will need to register each month for our different programs as the Zoom link will change. A new Zoom link will be sent out at 6:30 p.m. the night of the program for everyone who has registered. This procedure prevents anyone from disrupting the meeting by “bombing” it.

## ***Bluebird trails are an important way to help our native cavity nesting birds***

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wasps occupy a nest box, birds cannot. Monitoring nest boxes is a must if we want to help bluebirds and other native cavity-nesting birds, like Tree Swallows. There are just too many issues that can limit the parents from successfully fledging young. I also learned that an average of about 50% of fledged baby bluebirds live to be a year old. If you ask me, we cannot have too many bluebirds.

The Rodman Preserve bluebird trail is seeing more activity this month. Tree Swallows and Western Bluebirds are checking out the nest boxes. Come take a walk around the Rodman Preserve on Lake County Land Trust property on Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup> from nine to noon and see what's happening!

## ***Welcome new and returning members***

Welcome new and returning members: Kirk Andrus, Kelseyville; Anita Benzing, Kelseyville; Larry Lyons, Lakeport; Gillian Parrillo, Lakeport; John Sheehy, Nice; Elizabeth Weiss, Cobb; William R. Knuth, Kelseyville; Timothy Trovinger, Kelseyville; Michelle Easter, Lakeport; Harriett Emery, Lakeport; Judy Bologna, Lakeport; Nancy Puterbaugh, Lakeport; Heather Peterson, Kelseyville; John Porter, Clearlake; Karin Todd, Clearlake; Henry Bornstein, Clearlake; Pamela A. Roscoe, Clearlake; Thomas Rawley, Clearlake Oaks; Homer Hillebrand, Clearlake Oaks; Kathleen Jacob, Clearlake Oaks; Donna Perry, Clearlake Oaks; Sara L. Dorn, Kelseyville;

Kirk Andrus, Kelseyville; Scott and Patty, Kelseyville; Zoe Tummillo, Lakeport; Kathryn Corner, Lakeport; Ann Nolasco, Lower Lake; Barbara Harold, Lower Lake; P Pneumatikos, Lucerne; Carol Hanson, Hidden Valley Lake; Aaltje Koski, Upper Lake; Sandra Zalusky, Cobb; Allna Ramstead, Clear Lake Park; H Strik, Kelseyville; Darcy Skarada, Kelseyville; Heidi F. Fitzsimmons, Kelseyville; Rebecca Johnson, Kelseyville; Janice Pilcher, Lakeport; Alberta Morton, Lower Lake; Rachel Hutchinson, Lower Lake; Deann Fawcett, Lucerne; April Allen, Lucerne; Nicole Mule, Hidden Valley Lake; and Margie Hackett, Hidden Valley Lake.

# *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 for which 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.

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](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.

## **Red-tailed Hawk rescued by Kelseyville couple**

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very careful with the talons. We were told to try and get its wings down under a towel. I tried to approach it from behind, but he could turn his head to look at me. He was terrified, but when I came closer with the towel, he turned onto his back. I continued to get the towel around him and yes, at one point he almost got me with a talon, the edge of the towel saved me.

I was able to cover his head, cradle him, and then put him in a box so we could take him to the vet who is also the bird rescue site. Mission accomplished. This is the closest I have been to a wild bird of prey. He opened his mouth to protest and I was able to see all the parts of his mouth. All in all he was pretty calm for being injured and "attacked" with a towel by a human. The photo does not do his size justice. It was taken from inside the house.

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The Borjons took the hawk to Dr. Susan Cannon at the Wasson Clinic, the Lakeport veterinarian who also provides bird rescue. Sadly, the hawk had been shot and his wing broken. Happily, the Borjons later learned the hawk would recover and be released into the wild.

## *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 a minute or two out of your time to do so.

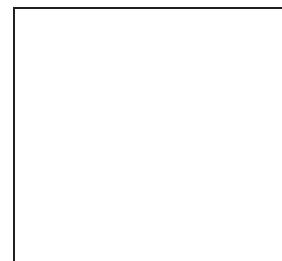
Even if you still prefer to receive the mailed version of the "Grebe", we would like to have your email for our records. Once in a while, we send out emails to our members about important events or bird sightings that may be of interest. You are also welcome

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](mailto:redbud.audubon@gmail.com), and, if you wish, let us know in what areas you feel you can help.

**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](http://www.redbudaudubon.org).  
Newsletter by email \$25/year; by regular mail \$35/year.

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☐ I would also like to make a donation to the local work of Redbud Audubon. My check is enclosed for  
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**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***  
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