



The Western Grebe

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

www.redbudaudubon.org

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REDBUD AUDUBON PROGRAM

*Redbud Audubon will hold a special
Bird ID meeting on Zoom,
December 16 at 7 pm*

DECEMBER CHAPTER PROGRAM

Thursday, December 16, 7 PM

Topic: Bird Identification Program

Presenters: Doug and Lisa Prather
Program starts at 7 PM

To register for this Zoom
program, click link:

[Redbud Audubon Program
Registration](#)

Or visit RedbudAudubon.org
and click on the registration link

Or scan the following QR code:



*American white pelican is one of many birds
you will learn to identify during the online Bird
Identification Program. Photo by Barbara Bridges*

Redbud Audubon will again hold limited CBC this year but all are welcome to view Zoom program

For the second year in a row, the annual Redbud Audubon Society will be holding a limited Christmas Bird Count. The annual Clear Lake Christmas Bird Count, held by the Redbud Audubon Society, will be on Saturday, Dec. 18. The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is a traditional project of Audubon societies around the country. Because of the continuing precarious Covid 19 situation, once again only previous participants will be able to take part in the count this year. These participants have been sent information about meeting times and places by the count organizers, Brad and Kathy Barnwell.

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President's Message

by Roberta Lyons



I hope everyone is keeping up on the many environmental issues facing Lake County right now. One of the important ones is the cannabis industry. Although can-

nabis can be produced and processed in a responsible and fairly environmentally sensitive manner, many of the projects being proposed right now are neither of those things.

Take the proposal for Herrington Road near a group of homeowners, south of Lower Lake and near the Hidden Valley Lake subdivision. This project will negatively impact many homeowners who thought they were buying land and building homes in a bucolic country setting.

There is a place for cannabis, but not near homes or on scenic hillsides where numerous oak trees or native chaparral must be destroyed to accommodate the hoop houses and fenced outdoor grows.

The county is not equipped to adequately process the numerous (hundreds) of proposed permits that have been submitted. The biological reports are inadequate and not detailed as to how much native vegetation, including our various species of oaks, will be removed.

Even with the legal provisions to grow cannabis here, the illegal and environmentally destructive grows outnumber the legal ones. The illegal ones are not being abated; if illegal grows cannot be abated, why should we trust that legal ones will be properly monitored?

After the tremendous decline in property taxes from the homes lost in wildfires, the county needs the tax money from cannabis.

Recently millions of dollars in much-needed raises were awarded to County employees, partially based on the cannabis tax income. What is going to happen when prices fluctuate (and pay raises don't) which is something that is already evident.

It's time for the County to step back and halt any new projects until the illegal ones are abated and the staff is available to carefully review every project and monitor their development.

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.

Welcome new members

Kirsten Olson, Kelseyville; Barbara Harrold, Kelseyville; John Frye, Lakeport; Sandra Miller, Nice; John Lucich, Clearlake; Thor Schack, Clearlake; Jeannie Vierra, Clearlake Oaks; Jeanne Wotherspoon, Kelseyville; Georgett Eggel, Kelseyville; Cindy Chatham, Lakeport; Diane McLellan, Lakeport; Anne Frappier, Middletown; David Ball, Nice; and Barbara Hepburn, Hidden Valley Lake.



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To contact a board member:

Phone 707/ 263-8030

Email: redbud.audubon@gmail.com

Lake County Birds

Photos by Brad Barnwell
(more on following pages)



Belted Kingfisher



Male and Female Woodduck



Grebe on Clear Lake

Redbud Audubon will again hold limited CBC this year but all are welcome to view Zoom program

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Previous to the bird count, on Thursday, Dec. 16 starting at 7 p.m. Doug and Lisa Prather will host a Bird Identification Zoom program. Just click on the link in the newsletter (if you receive it online) or go to www.redbudaudubon.org and click the “register” option on the home page. The link to join the program will be sent you the day of the program. 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.

National Audubon has been holding a Christmas Bird Count for 122 years. The official count period usually starts around the middle of December and ends the first week of January. Local Audubon Societies can decide what day they conduct their counts within this time frame. 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 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 all the birds they saw, founding what is now considered to be the world's most significant citizen-based con-

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Redbud Audubon will again hold limited CBC

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servation 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.



Bufflehead



Adult Killdeer



Western Bluebirds



House Finch



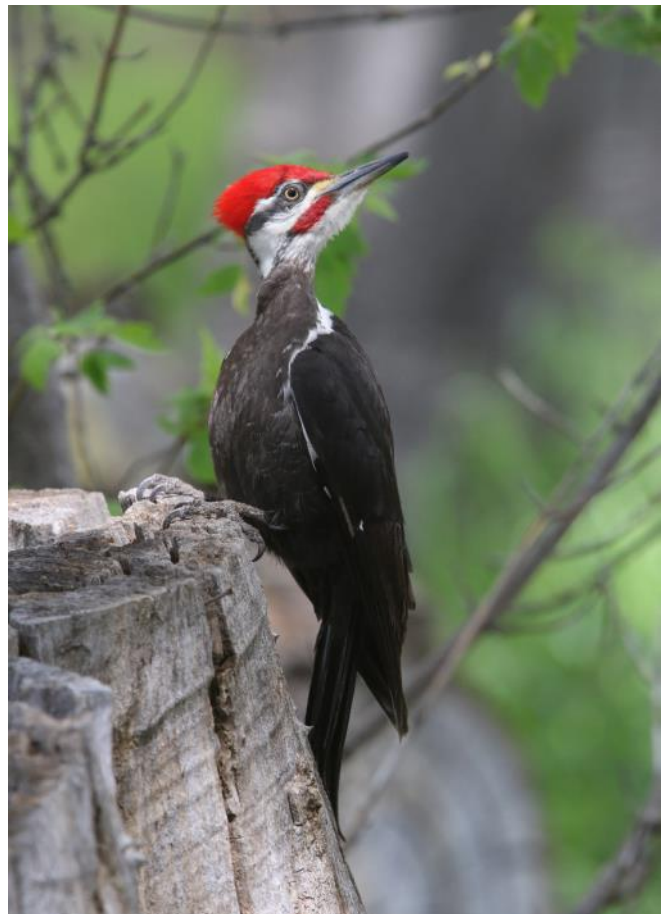
Juvenile Virginia Rail



Bonaparte's Gull



Wrentit



Pileated Woodpecker



Green Heron



Red-breasted Sapsucker

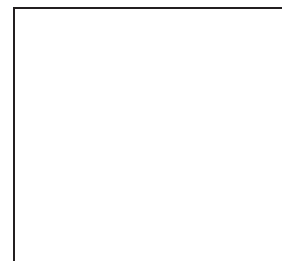


Anna's Hummingbird



Red-breasted Nuthatch

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