

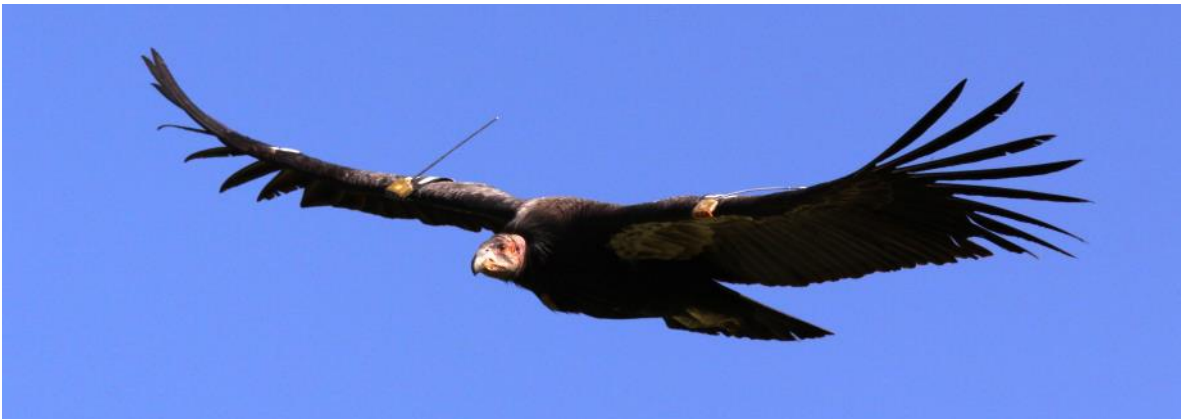


The Western Grebe

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

www.redbudaudubon.org

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*The California Condor wingspan is 9.5 feet wide, and body from beak to tail is 4 feet long.
Photo by Chris West.*

Yurok Tribe works to return condors to Northern California

Special guest Tiana Williams-Claussen will talk about reintroducing California condors to their historical Northern California and Pacific Northwest range at Redbud Audubon's Zoom

meeting on Thursday, February 17, at 7 p.m.

The Yurok Tribe in Northern California has been preparing for 14 years to bring condors,

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REDBUD AUDUBON

FEBRUARY CHAPTER MEETING

Thursday, February 17, 7 PM

Topic: Yurok Tribe works to return condors

Presenter: Tina Williams-Claussen

To register for this Zoom meeting, click link:

[Redbud Audubon Program Registration](https://www.redbudaudubon.org)

**Or visit RedbudAudubon.org
and click on the registration link**

Or scan the following QR code:



President's Message

by Roberta Lyons



A few years ago when I and other board members of the Lake County Land Trust attended a planning retreat, we did an exercise asking each board member to

envision what Lake County could be like in a few decades, based on the “best possible scenario” of what all of us “nature types” would like to see.

We were encouraged to think about Lake County as a place so special that National Geographic magazine would feature it in an article. People would come here from great distances because of its fame.

Is this hard for you to imagine? Lake County? The county with a reputation for wildfires, socioeconomic problems, and disfunction? The butt of jokes, not only from outside areas, but its own residents? Clear Lake? Green and yucky in the summer and falsely described as “polluted”?

The visioning was a good exercise, and we realized that we can start now, promoting this county for its amazing features and countering the negative narrative. We are a biological “hotspot” full of fascinating terrain and rare plants. A place where volcanic rock spewed from dramatic Mt. Konocti over millions of

years, creating interesting landscapes covered with oak woodlands and a carpet of chaparral. And then, there is the lake. It is an ancient lake, known to be a minimum of 500,000 years old, and likely to be a million years old. The lake and surrounding area has been designated as an “Important Bird Area” by the National Audubon Society. This is a place where in many years you can see nesting herons and thousands of grebes on the shoreline and in the bays. We are even home to one of the country’s newest national monuments, the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. How cool is that?

There are groups and organizations already working on making this vision a reality. The county has a Tourism Improvement District (TID) that was formed in 2019 and is funded by the resort community. The Certified Tourism Ambassador (CTA) program supports positive tourism outreach by trained local volunteers, and the Blue Ribbon Committee that is studying both biological and sociological aspects of Clear Lake and Lake County. These are all positive developments.

Smaller groups as well, such as Redbud Audubon and the Lake County Land Trust, are doing their part by helping to educate local residents about what a special place this is. We need to stop the negative narrative about Lake County and continue to work hard to educate our residents about what a truly unique place this is.

Cheers to everyone taking part in these efforts.

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.

Welcome new and returning Redbud Audubon members

Welcome new and returning members: William Stafford, Kelseyville; Doug Wentworth, Kelseyville; Lawrence Pritchard, Kelseyville; Beverly Richardson, Lakeport and Marcey Sperling, Lakeport.

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.

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Western Bluebirds

Great Backyard Bird Count February 18–21

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is a free, fun, and easy event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations. Participants are asked to count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the four-day event and report their sightings online at birdcount.org. Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, from beginning bird watchers to experts, and you can participate from your backyard, or anywhere in the world.

Each checklist submitted during the GBBC helps researchers at the [National Audubon Society](#), [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#) and [Birds Canada](#) learn more about how birds are doing, and how to protect them and the environment we share. Recently, more than 160,000 participants submitted their bird observations online, creating the largest instantaneous snapshot of global bird populations ever recorded.

The 25th annual GBBC will be held Friday, February 18, through Monday, February 21, 2022. Please visit the official website at birdcount.org for more information.

Bird populations are always shifting and changing. For example, 2014 GBBC data highlighted a large irruption of Snowy Owls across the northeastern, mid-Atlantic, and Great Lakes areas of the United States. The data also showed the effects that warm weather patterns have had on bird movement around the country.



White-breasted Nuthatch



This fishing line recycle bin at the public boat ramp is just one of 26 bins where a total of 55.6 pounds of line has been collected.

Continuing success with fishing line recycle bins

Robert Patton, Redbud volunteer who has managed the Fishing Line Recycle Bin project since its inception in 2013, reported results from the latest monitoring of the 26 recycle bins located at parks, marinas, and resorts around the shoreline of Clear Lake.

Robert constructed each of the bins and worked with park managers and resort owners to install them. He and volunteers Susanne Scholz, and Donna and Richard Mackiewicz clear out the bins on a regular basis and collect discarded fishing line for recycling.

When all 26 bins were cleaned during December, four were completely full with fishing line, four were $\frac{3}{4}$ full, nine were $\frac{1}{2}$ full, eight were $\frac{1}{4}$ full, and one was empty.

There is a continuing problem that people put trash

in the bins, although signs tell them not to. Twelve bins had more than ten pieces of trash, three had 5-10 pieces, nine had 1-5 pieces, and two had no trash.

The discarded line collected from the bins is mailed to a plastics-recycling manufacturer in the Midwest. In December, Robert sent a box weighing 11.65 pounds that contained line collected over the last two years. Added to earlier boxes he has mailed, Redbud has sent a total of 55.6 pounds of collected fishing line for recycling into new products. Best of all locally, that discarded line is prevented from harming birds and wildlife in Clear Lake and along its shores.

Robert reports these results on a regular basis to the California Coastal Commission, which manages the statewide recycling bin program.

Lake County final Christmas Bird Count Tally

Greater White-fronted	1
Snow Goose	4
Cackling Goose	21
Canada Goose	253
Gadwall	5
American Wigeon	28
Mallard	338
Northern Shoveler	282
Green-winged Teal	1
Ring-necked Duck	89
Lesser Scaup	12
White-winged Scoter	1
Bufflehead	357
Common Goldeneye	132
Hooded Merganser	8
Common Merganser	142
Ruddy Duck	198
California Quail	170
Wild Turkey	16
Common Loon	cw
Pied-billed Grebe	103
Horned Grebe	13
Red-necked Grebe	1
Eared Grebe	47
Western Grebe	19
Clark's Grebe	3
Aechmophorus sp.	100
Double-Cr Cormorant	100
American White Pelican	25
Great Blue Heron	33
Great Egret	26
Snowy Egret	5
Black-cr Night Heron	2
Turkey Vulture	77
Osprey	2
White-tailed Kite	2
Golden Eagle	1
Northern Harrier	3

Sharp-shinned Hawk	2
Cooper's Hawk	1
Bald Eagle	9
Red-shouldered Hawk	20
Red-tailed Hawk	40
Accipiter Sp	1
American Coot	960
Killdeer	80
Spotted Sandpiper	3
Short-billed Gull (Mew Gull)	1
Ring-billed Gull	26
Western Gull	2
California Gull	554
Herring Gull	3266
Iceland Gull (Thayer's)	11
Glaucous-winged Gull	15
Gull sp.	535
Rock Pigeon	23
Band-tailed Pigeon	259
Eurasian Collared Dove	36
Mourning Dove	98
Barn Owl	1
Western Screech Owl	3
Great Horned Owl	3
Northern Pygmy Owl	2
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1
Anna's Hummingbird	15
Belted Kingfisher	13
Lewis's Woodpecker	6
Acorn Woodpecker	232
Red-breasted Sapsucker	7
Nuttall's Woodpecker	26
Downy Woodpecker	5
Northern Flicker	42
American Kestrel	6
Merlin	1
Black Phoebe	42
Say's Phoebe	5
Loggerhead Shrike	1

Hutton's Vireo	1
Steller's Jay	17
California Scrub-Jay	159
American Crow	241
Common Raven	150
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	cw
Oak Titmouse	84
Bushtit	140
White-breasted Nuthatch	52
Pygmy Nuthatch	9
Brown Creeper	1
Rock Wren	1
Marsh Wren	2
Bewick's Wren	12
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	88
Wrentit	13
Western Bluebird	104
Hermit Thrush	5
American Robin	24
California Thrasher	6
Northern Mockingbird	21
European Starling	382
American Pipit	8
Phainopepla	7
Yellow-rumped (form ?)	74
Yellow-rumped (Myrtle's)	5
Yellow-rumped (Audubon's)	29
Townsend's Warbler	cw
Fox Sparrow	1
Dark-eyed Junco - OR	185
White-crowned Sparrow	127
Golden-crowned Sparrow	267
Bell's Sparrow	1
Savannah Sparrow	11
Song Sparrow	12
Lincoln's Sparrow	1
California Towhee	124
Chipping Sparrow	cw
Spotted Towhee	59

Yurok Tribe works to return condors to Northern California

(Continued from page 1)

this nation's largest bird, home to a historic part of its range after a century-long absence. Not only will this restore an apex species into the region's ecological systems, but it will promote the Yurok Tribe's reconnection to this amazing creature that is sacred to the tribe and has great cultural importance.

Tiana Williams-Claussen, Director of the Yurok Tribe Wildlife Department, will briefly introduce the incredible *Prey-go-neesh* -- the California Condor -- and describe the traditions guiding the Yurok Tribe's efforts to bring condors back to the Tribal Ancestral Territory. She will explain the tribe's step-by-step progress over 14 years to develop collaborative partnerships with the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Ventana Wildlife Society, multiple zoos, and local hunters. With the necessary facilities construction nearing completion, the tribe hopes to release the first four condors this spring. In closing her talk, she will describe the Yurok Tribe's approach for reintegrating condors once they are released.

Tiana Williams-Claussen is a Yurok Tribal member from the village of *Wehl-kwew* and was raised in Yurok Ancestral Territory. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Biochemical Sciences from Harvard University, after which she returned to serve her tribe. She was instrumental in the formation of the Yurok Tribe Wildlife Department in 2008 and currently serves as Department Director.

Her native upbringing and formal education combine to allow her to bridge the gap between Yurok traditional understandings of the world and those rooted in Western science. She is working toward a cohesive, well-informed approach to holistic ecosystem management.

To register for this fascinating presentation, go to www.redbudaudubon.org and click on the Registration Link on the home page of the website or click on the link in this newsletter if you are receiving it by email. The link to join will be sent to you the day of the program.

Lake County final Christmas Bird Count Tally

Continued from page 6

Western Meadowlark	64
Hooded Oriole	1
Red-winged Blackbird	246
Great-tailed Grackle	5
Brewer's Blackbird	351
Blackbird Sp.	11
House Finch	49
Purple Finch	1
Lesser Goldfinch	100
American Goldfinch	21
House Sparrow	44
TOTAL BIRDS	12289
TOTAL SPECIES	117

Plus 4 count week birds: 121

Thayers & Iceland are now 1 species:
Iceland Gull

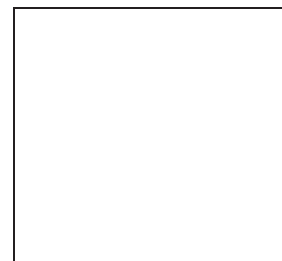


Tribal members working on construction of the Condor Release and Management Facility. Yurok Tribe photo.



The facility will be used to house and assess condor health and behavior prior to release, and for later capture and assessment. Yurok Tribe photo.

Redbud Audubon
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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.

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