



The Western Grebe

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

www.redbudaudubon.org

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Don't miss this chance to learn about the Bird Rescue Center in Sonoma County



Ashton Kluttz

The Redbud Audubon Society is pleased to announce that Ashton Kluttz, Executive Director of The Bird Rescue Center in Santa Rosa will be guest presenter on Thursday evening, March 17, starting at 7 p.m. on Zoom. To register for the program, go to www.redbudaudubon.org and click on the registration link on the home page, or, click on the link in this newsletter if you are receiving it by email.

The Bird Rescue Center, located in Sonoma County, treats an average of 80 Lake County patients annually. Kluttz reports that most of

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This young Coopers Hawk is one of the birds treated at the Sonoma County Bird Rescue Center.

REDBUD AUDUBON

MARCH CHAPTER MEETING

Thursday, March 17, 7 PM

Topic: Bird Rescue Center in Sonoma County

Presenter: Ashton Kluttz

To register for this Zoom meeting, click link:

[Redbud Audubon Program Registration](http://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



As many of you know, Redbud Audubon has sponsored Herons Days (and Heron Festival) for many years and only stopped with the advent of Covid. We won't

be holding Heron Days this year both because the lake will probably be too low, and the status of the Covid pandemic has not given us enough time for planning this fun but complicated event.

The main attraction of Heron Days has always been taking people to view the nesting sites, [rookeries] of the Great Blue Herons that grace our beautiful Clear Lake year around. It is with great concern that over the past few years, we have noticed a drastic decline in the nests at two of the major rookeries that we once took people to view.

Because of this noticeable decline Brad and Kathy Barnwell and I last year attempted to map and clarify where the major rookeries have been, which ones have declined, and any new nesting sites that have been discovered. We will continue this project through the coming years. Hopefully we will be able to identify new nesting areas and hopefully find out if the sites are simply moving, or indeed declining. As of now it appears to be the latter.

On Saturday, March 19, Audubon members and followers are invited to attend our field trip to view one of the remaining rookeries, count the nests and enjoy the sight of Great Blues perching in the tree tops preparing their homes. We'll be meeting at the Upper Lake Park on Highway 20 and caravanning from there, leaving at 9 a.m. sharp. Hope to see you there!

Reclamation area field trip set for March 19

Redbud Audubon Society will hold a special field trip on Saturday, March 19 to the Reclamation Area near Upper Lake to view the Great Blue Heron nesting site there.

The rookery is located along a branch of Rodman Slough. The event involves a flat walk of about one mile. Bring binoculars for a good view.

The Reclamation Area is owned by the County of Lake and is open to the public. However, parking is limited. Those attending are urged to arrange their own carpooling if possible. Redbud Audubon does not make carpool arrangements but individuals are free to do so.

The plan is to meet at the Upper Lake Park on Highway 20 at 8:45 and caravan to the Reclamation Area site, leaving at 9 a.m. sharp. Caravanning is a good idea if you have never been to this area. For information call Roberta Lyons at (707) 994-2024.

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: Dee Terry, Cobb; Cherri Giovannini, Cobb; Mariam Toor, Glenhaven; Lynne Demele, Kelseyville; David Hicks, Kelseyville; Kristin Snyder, Kelseyville; Jack M Elizares, Kelseyville.

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.

REDBUD AUDUBON BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Adult Bald Eagle. Photo by Brad Barnwell.

There is a lot to know about the differences between Golden Eagles and Bald Eagles

By Brad Barnwell

Lately there have been a number of eagle sightings in the county and some new birders are having a difficult time determining a juvenile/immature Bald Eagle from a Golden Eagle. So I thought I would give you some basic information on the two genera/species and point out a few rudimentary characteristics that may help you tell the difference between the two. Keep in mind that eagles seen at great distances and/or poor lighting are difficult for anyone to properly identify. So, let's get started.

There are 23 genera of eagles in the world, which can be further divided into 68 species. The 68 species are commonly separated into 4 informal groups:

1. **Snake or Serpent Eagles**
2. **Fish or Sea Eagles**
3. **Booted Eagles, Hawk-Eagles and Buzzard-Eagles**
4. **Harpy Eagles.**

Only two species of eagles can be found in Lake

County, the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and the Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*). As you can see by their scientific names they are not in the same genus and are not as closely related as some may think. Bald Eagles are in the genus *Haliaeetus*, and are often referred to as Fish or Sea Eagles referring to the fact that they like to prey on fish. Golden Eagles are in the genus *Aquila*, and are often referred to as Booted Eagles referring to the fact that they have feathers down their leg to their feet.

Generally, the Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle are about the same size, yet different references may give one or the other the larger dimension(s). In both species the females are larger than the males.

Length:	27" to 35"
Wingspan:	71" to 96"
Weight:	5.5 lb to 14.5 lb

Keep in mind that the Bald Eagle does not develop the pure white head and tail until about the fourth or

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Differences between Golden Eagles and Bald Eagles

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fifth year, while the Golden Eagle goes through more subtle but often very identifiable changes as it matures over the first four or five years of life, and has a golden nape and crown even as a juvenile.

When watching a suspected soaring eagle in any lighting condition, but particularly when the bird is backlit and appears as a black silhouette, check the relationship between the length of the tail versus the combined length of the neck and head. If the combined length of the neck and head is longer than half the tail length, you probably have a Bald Eagle. Additionally, the Bald Eagle often soars on straight flat wings unlike the Golden Eagle, which normally soars on wings with a slight dihedral.

When seen overhead the juvenile/immature Golden Eagle will have a white patch at the base of the primaries at the carpus or “wrist” of each wing. The base of the tail of an immature golden will have a broad white band and the end of the tail will have a wide dark band. As the Golden Eagle becomes an adult, the white of the underwings and tail gradually disappear. The Golden Eagle never has the extensive white armpits and white mottling on the under-wing lining and chest like the young Bald Eagle. The overall color of the adult Golden Eagle is brown

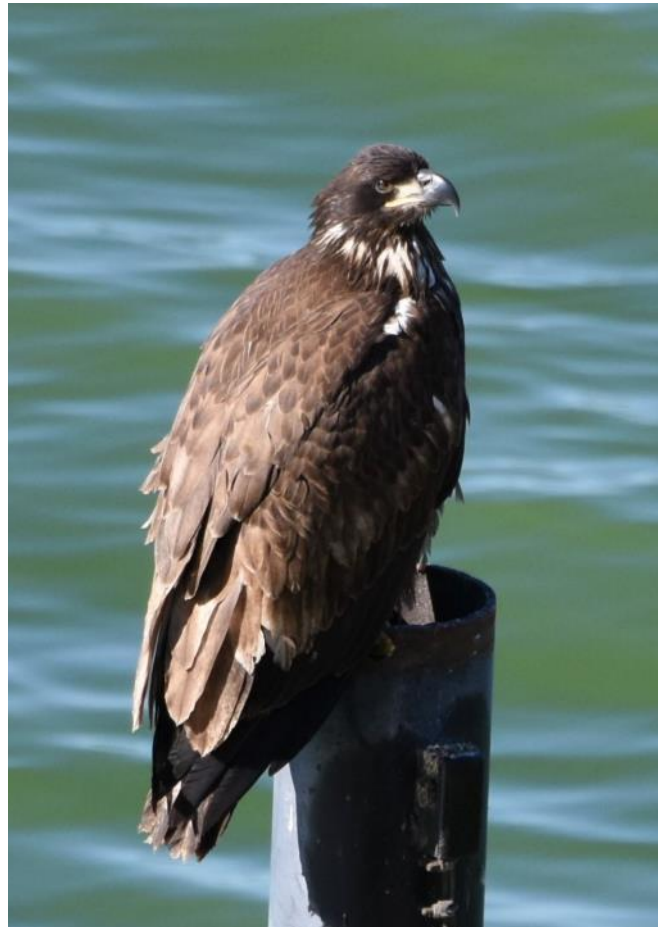
As the juvenile Bald Eagle ages, it may show a predominantly white chest with heavy brown spotting and a head that appears to be graying like an old man, but in reality, the head feathers and the tail feathers are transitioning to pure white and the chest to dark brownish black like its back. The adult Bald Eagle never has the golden head like the Golden Eagle.

It seems that it is more difficult for people to determine if they are looking at a Bald or Golden Eagle when looking at a perched first year Bald Eagle when they both would appear to be just big dark eagles. This is when looking at the bill of the eagle may help. The Bald Eagle has a larger bill that changes from black or dark grey to yellow as the bird reaches maturity. The Golden Eagle’s smaller bill, which doesn’t change much as it matures, has a dark tip, which fades to a grey or bone color as it nears the yellow cere.

Our two eagles are amazing birds of prey and a joy to watch. I hope these tips help you make a good identification. I do have one final tip; keep your

binoculars close at hand.

Happy birding, Brad Barnwell



Juvenile Bald Eagle. Photo by Roberta Lyons



Adult Golden Eagle. Photo by Brad Barnwell

Clear Lake State Park Resumes Nature Walks

Starting March 12, 2022 at 9 a.m. Clear Lake State Park (CLSP) will start its spring season nature walks.

The walks will be the 2nd Saturday of the month starting this March and running through June. Participants should meet at the Visitor Center parking lot at 9 a.m.. The walks will last about 1 ½ to 2 hours and will be an easy stroll on well groomed trails with little or no grade.

Walkers should wear sturdy shoes, wear a hat, bring water and binoculars and dress for the weather. All hikers are urged to practice good safe Covid protocol in accordance with county guidelines.

Entry into the park will be free for participants. Rain will cancel the walk.

The March walk will be led by CLSP docent Brad Barnwell. Brad has been leading hikes in the park for the last 20 years and is an avid bird watcher and wildlife photographer.

This month Brad is extending a special invitation to the regular park walkers/users who would like to know a little more about the flora and fauna in the park. Brad will be highlighting the hopeful return of the park's nesting Osprey.

Anyone having special needs should contact the Clear Lake State Park Sector Office at 707-279-2267.

Clear Lake State Park is located at 5300 Soda Bay Road Kelseyville, CA. The front entrance Kiosk phone number (707) 279-4293.



Lake County residents are used to the sight of wild turkeys on the roads and in their neighborhoods. But one resident was interested to see these mostly white turkeys near Lakeport. According to a google search, wild turkeys can be mostly white, even though it is unusual. They are not leucistic, as some of our local animals can be, like an occasional leucistic grebe; they apparently just have a lot of white feathers.

Bird Rescue Center

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their Osprey and Bald Eagle patients have come from Lake County in recent years.

The hospital cares for close to 3,000 native birds annually. Patients are a combination of songbirds, raptors, and water birds. 80% of the birds that come to the center have injuries that are a result of human-related interactions such as flying into windows, being electrocuted by utility wires, being hit by cars, being attacked by pet cats, and more. The Center also receives hundreds of herons and egrets each year from the Ninth Street rookery located in downtown Santa Rosa.

Though 90 percent of the birds treated come from Sonoma County, the Center also serves an additional four counties in Northern California—Napa, Marin, Lake and Mendocino. The phone team fields thousands of calls from all over the country, even logging a handful of international calls from places as far away as Saudi Arabia.

The Bird Rescue Center was founded in 1976 and during the first few years, was an association of volunteers working from their homes. In 1980, the Center was granted permission to occupy a vacant Quonset hut on Sonoma County's Chanate Road campus.

The Center has an education program that touches over 40,000 children and adults each year. Currently it cares for 13 resident ambassador birds—birds that cannot be released back into the wild due to previous injuries or conditions. They are primarily raptors (owls, hawks, falcons, osprey, Turkey Vulture), with one Common Raven included. Ambassadors participate in activities at wineries, classroom presentations, sporting events and community events to help raise awareness about the importance of birds to the environment and how humans can successfully coexist with them without causing harm.

Kluttz completed her BA in Environmental Studies at Washington College (Maryland). She began her career as a wildlife rehabilitator in 2009 with the Marine Mammal Center in Marin County.

Her tenure with The Bird Rescue Center in Sonoma County began in 2010. Striving to provide the best care for local wildlife, she obtained her Registered Veterinary Technician certification in 2018, has co-authored a chapter on towhee care currently included in a wildlife care book for facilities around the world, and has served on the board for the California Coun-

cil for Wildlife Rehabilitators that provides community, protocols, and information to all California wildlife facilities.

Everyone is urged to join this fascinating Zoom program to learn about The Bird Rescue Center and hear behind-the-scenes stories of bird rescue (particularly of Lake County patients), and unique avian observations from the last few years.

Birds treated at the Bird Rescue Center

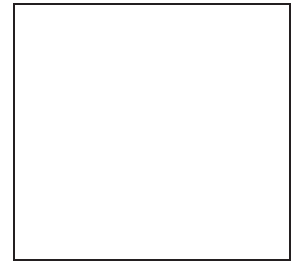


A young injured Osprey.



An injured Acorn Woodpecker.

Redbud Audubon
PO Box 5780
Clearlake, CA 95422



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New Member Introductory Rate — \$20 for the first year

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☐ 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.

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_____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$75 _____ \$100 Other: _____

Please make check payable to Redbud Audubon Society. Mail your application and check to POB 5780, Clearlake, CA 95422

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