



The Western Grebe

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

www.redbudaudubon.org

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A World on the Wing: The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds

Very Important Changes:

- Redbud's program speaker for April had to cancel unexpectedly.
- Fortunately, Peregrine Audubon in Ukiah has invited Redbud chapter and Mendocino Coast chapter to join their April meeting on Zoom, featuring a leading world expert on bird migration.
- The Zoom meeting is **TUESDAY, April 19**, two days before Redbud's regular meeting day.
- This special meeting will begin at **6:00pm**, an hour earlier than usual because the speaker lives on the East Coast, with a three-hour time difference.

Our neighboring chapter in Ukiah, Peregrine Audubon, is excited to present a unique opportunity to hear Scott Weidensaul, one of the

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Scott Weidensaul with Snowy Owl.

REDBUD AUDUBON

APRIL SPECIAL MEETING

TUESDAY, April 19, 2022, 6 PM (NOT 7 PM)

Topic: A World on the Wing: The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds

Presenter: Scott Weidensaul

To register for this program **ONLY**, go to www.peregrineaudubon.org home page, scroll down to "Subscribe to Our Mailing List", enter your email address and follow the prompts.

Everyone registered will receive the Zoom link for the meeting.

President's Message

by Roberta Lyons

Impacts of “fuel” management



Roberta Lyons

Spring to start burning, masticating, and removing the chaparral and trees that provide vital nesting and feeding habitat for this area's wide variety of passerines (perching birds or songbirds) including the California Quail, Wren-tit, Thrasher, wrens, finches, scrub jays, woodpeckers, swallows and many more. This type of habitat also provides home and cover for many mammals, large and small.

This particular winter was very dry and much of this work could have been done in the months of November through February. I understand the desire to create fire safe space around our homes and along our evacuation routes. Of course human life should be valued above all else, but everyone involved in this effort to clear shrubbery and trees should be aware of the impact it is having on our natural surroundings and the birds and animals that live there, especially during nesting season.

When a resident receives an abatement notice it is very open-ended regarding what exactly needs to be done. So, as can be seen in the images that accompany this article, many simply clear-cut and grade their properties. People have to do what they can afford and this may be cheaper than hiring a hand-crew to come in and selectively remove dried out dead shrubbery. Much of the chaparral, however, that is being abated is not dead or dried out. It's just vegetation. It is no more flammable than homes, dried grass, or faulty PG&E lines. It is our native ecosystem, unique to California. Seldom mentioned is the root cause of this situation. Our climate is changing. We need more carbon capture. The more we clear and burn, the more

carbon is released to the atmosphere, it seems like a vicious cycle to me.

One solution is being espoused by Catherine Koehler, a biologist and co-manager of the McLaughlin Reserve. Koehler is a grassland and native plant specialist and has seen her share of wildfire damage including the Rocky and Jerusalem fires of 2015. Koehler encourages educating and involving citizens in our land management by training them to be land literate and land tenders. UC Davis students have picked up on this idea and have launched a Hands on the Land program, a new student organization on landscape renewal through repairing and restoring native ecosystems, instead of destroying them as is the current endeavor. Currently the students are working on the McLaughlin Preserve (which is owned by UC Davis) and make monthly trips to work on restoring parts of the property that is located in eastern



The abatement sign recently installed. The sign was placed this spring at the height of nesting season.

Lake County. Making the land more resilient to wildfire is a focus of the restoration work. According to Koehler, getting rid of non-native invasive species is key to helping reduce the destruction from a wildfire.

If millions and millions of dollars can be allocated to burning, masticating, clearing, and grading, why can't a few of those millions be dedicated to hiring and training hand crews of young people to help elderly and low income people manage their landscapes, as well as working on roadside areas that will be necessary to keep open in case of evacuation. All I ask is that those agencies and organizations receiving the funding, along with the State CAL FIRE agency, open their minds to a better way of handling this devastating issue facing California.



Yes folks. That is actually old-growth chaparral. It is not "decadent," or "over-grown." It is an old-growth forest containing live-oak, ceanothus, chamise and more. Yes, of course it is flammable, but is the answer to grade it into oblivion? Perhaps we should address the root causes of fires - a changing climate, careless people, and unmaintained power poles and lines.



Example of chaparral clearing in Clear Lake Riviera.



On the other side of the road from where the clearing work has occurred is the native chaparral. Covering the ground is native salvia, full of pollinators and other insects, including butterflies.



Grading and clearing along Pt. Lakeview Rd. This was once an ancient chaparral forest.



Bare ground where all vegetation has been removed.



Native salvia full of honeybees and native bees. This is the ground cover that may soon look like the photo above.

A World on the Wing: The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds

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world's leading experts on bird migration. Scott is a celebrated writer and ornithologist.

Weidensaul spearheads a number of major research projects focusing on bird migration and has written more than 30 books on natural history, including *Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds* and, most recently, *A World on The Wing: The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds*. He was recently interviewed about this latest book on Terry Gross' *Fresh Air* program on National Public Radio.

In addition to writing about wildlife, Weidensaul is an active field researcher whose work focuses on bird migration. He is a co-director of Project OwlNet, a collaborative effort among nearly 125 banding and research stations across North America studying owl migration, and for more than 25 years he has directed a major effort to study the movements of Northern Saw-whet Owls, one of the smallest and least-understood raptors in North America.

Weidensaul co-founded Project SNOWstorm, which uses cutting-edge tracking technology to study Snowy Owls, and is a founder of the Critical Connections project, which is tracking the migration of birds that breed on National Park lands in Alaska.

He is also part of a continental effort to understand the rapid evolution by several species of western hummingbirds of a new migratory route and wintering range in the East. He co-founded the Northeast Motus Collaboration, which is creating a network of nearly 150 automated telemetry receivers across the



Scott Weidensaul displays a hawk's wing.

mid-Atlantic region and New England to track the movements of bat, insects and small birds.

Scott Weidensaul is a Fellow of the American Ornithological Society. He and his wife Amy live in the northern Appalachians of New Hampshire.

Important Change to Registration

To register for this program ONLY, go to www.peregrineaudubon.org home page, scroll down to Subscribe to our Mailing List, enter your email address and follow the prompts. Everyone registered on the Peregrine mailing list will receive the Zoom link for the meeting.

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.

Slate of officers presented for 2022-23

Darlene Hecomovich, the Nominating Chair for Redbud Audubon has presented the slate of officers for 2022-2023.

President:	Roberta Lyons
Vice-President:	Donna Mackiewicz
Treasurer:	Nicola Selph
Secretary:	Katherine Lindsley

Officers will be voted on at the May meeting (the vote would usually be taken in April) as this month Redbud Audubon is participating with Peregrine for its monthly program.

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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To contact a board member:

Phone 707/ 263-8030

Email: redbud.audubon@gmail.com



The Redbud Audubon Society and the Lake County Land Trust are partnering on establishing and monitoring a blue bird trail in Lake County on Land Trust properties. Jeannette Knight, left, a longtime chapter leader of Redbud has constructed numerous nest boxes over the years and recently created these to install at the Land Trust's Wright Wetland Preserve near Lakeport. She is pictured with Redbud Audubon's Donna Mackiewicz who is vice-president and the coordinator for Lake County's Blue Bird trail project. Numerous types of cavity-nesting birds are expected to use the boxes including tit-mice, wrens, tree swallows and flycatchers. Jeannette and Donna are pictured installing a box at the Wright Preserve.

Enjoy a second Saturday walk at either Anderson Marsh State Historic Park or Clear Lake State Park

Both Anderson Marsh State Historic Park and Clear Lake State Park have started their second Saturday walks at the parks.

At Anderson Marsh State Historic Park each in the series of guided nature walks is led by a volunteer State Parks docent. The hikes cover parts of the Cache Creek Nature Trail, the Marsh Trail and the Ridge Trail. The hike is over mostly level terrain and covers about three miles at a leisurely pace. The hike lasts from 1 ½ to two hours. Bring binoculars and meet in the parking lot of Anderson Marsh State Historic Park at 8:15 a.m. The walk starts at 8:30 and there is no charge for parking. Anderson Marsh State Historic Park is located on Hwy. 53, between Lower Lake and Clearlake. For more information about the walk, email info@andersonmarsh.org or call (707) 995-2658.

The Spring Nature Walks at Clear Lake State Park will also be the second Saturday of the month running through June. Participants should meet at the Visitor Center parking lot at 9a.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 at both of the parks.

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





Condors at the Yurok Tribe's Northern California Restoration Program will be released this month.

Update to February 17 Redbud Program: Five condors now reside at the Yurok tribe's Condor Restoration Project

Four young Condors were transported by the Ventana Wildlife Society in March to the new flight pen at the Yurok Tribe's Northern California Condor Restoration Program. The four young birds will acclimatize in the pen before they are released in April.

A seven-year-old Condor has been transported to the facility from The World Center for Birds of Prey. The adult bird will serve as a mentor to the two- and three-year old condors, but it will remain in the flight pen. The elder or mentor bird will assist the juvenile condors in honing the skills they need to survive outside of captivity.

The extremely social avian scavengers learn from their elders and their own experiences. Aside from recent activities, the condors have had minimal contact with humans since birth. Like other wild animals, dependence on humans is detrimental to the birds.

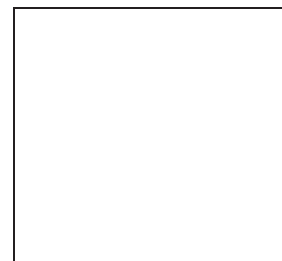
The reintroduction and management of California condors is one of the Yurok Tribe's flagship conservation projects.

The Yurok Tribe is one of many indigenous cultures that consider condors sacred. California condors, or *prey-go-neesh* in Yurok, have been spiritually tied to the Yurok *Hikelonah* — the cultural and ecological landscape — since the beginning of the world. Condors feature prominently in the Tribe's origin narrative, and its feathers and songs are foundational components of Yurok World Renewal ceremonies.

Management and conservation of condors in Yurok Ancestral Territory and the Pacific Northwest is part of the Yurok Tribe's obligation to restore balance to the world. The project seeks to return the condor to the integral role it plays in healthy ecosystems and, in doing so, to renew and strengthen the spiritual lifeways of the many tribes who revere this majestic species.

Watch the Condor webcam: To view the birds, please check out the Yurok Condor Cam at <https://www.yuroktribe.org/yurok-condor-live-feed>

Redbud Audubon
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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 _____

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☐ 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
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