



# *The Western Grebe*

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

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

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## Learn about the importance to birds of the “Food Webs” off Mendocino coastal waters



*Tim Bray and his dog Trouble look for birds along the shoreline of the Mendocino coast.*

The Redbud Audubon Society is pleased to host Tim Bray on Thursday, Oct. 20 for its monthly Zoom presentation, starting at 7 p.m. Bray is President of the Mendocino Coast Audubon Society and a retired Hydrogeologist with extensive knowledge of his topic.

“Wind-driven upwelling along the California coastal shore drives an extraordinarily productive marine ecosystem, attracting many kinds of birds,” Bray explains. “By contrast, offshore marine conditions are far less productive and support a less diverse group of birds, many of which are seldom seen from shore.”

These two different ecologies are juxtaposed off the Mendocino coast, providing the opportunity to see a wide variety of nearshore birds and offshore birds employing different

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### REDBUD AUDUBON

#### OCTOBER MEETING

Thursday, Oct. 20, 2022, 7 PM

Topic: Birds and the importance of  
Mendocino coastal waters food web

Presenter: Tim Bray, Hydrogeologist and  
President of the Mendocino Coast  
Audubon Society

To register for this Zoom meeting, click link:

[Redbud Audubon Program Registration](#)

Or visit [RedbudAudubon.org](http://RedbudAudubon.org) and click on the registration link

Or scan the following QR code:





*A soaring Black-footed Albatross hunts for fish that congregate where two offshore currents meet.*



*Tim Bray will be guest presenter on Oct. 20.*



*A small flock of Brown Pelicans cruises along the Mendocino Coast. Photo by Tim Bray.*



*Two Black-footed Albatrosses share or fight over Squid. Photo by Tim Bray.*

## Birds and “Food Webs”

*(Continued from page 1)*  
feeding strategies.

This presentation begins with a review of the mechanics and biology of the nearshore and offshore ecosystems, before looking at some of the birds that rely on different parts of the marine food webs and the remarkable adaptations they display.

Bray cohosts a monthly radio program (The Ecology Hour) with Dr. Robert Spies, a marine biologist, on Mendocino County’s KZYX public radio station. Bray, an avid birder, goes to sea as often as possible and organizes occasional pelagic field trips.

The Redbud program begins at 7 p.m. To register click on the link either in your emailed newsletter or on the home page of Audubon’s website: [www.redbudaudubon.org](http://www.redbudaudubon.org). The Zoom link will be sent to you the day of the program. Please register as early as possible and if you have any problems registering, email Redbud Audubon at [redbud.audubon@gmail.com](mailto:redbud.audubon@gmail.com).



# President's Message

by Roberta Lyons

## Golden-crowned Sparrows make their return



Roberta Lyons

The GCS's usually return here to Jago Bay around September 12-13; this year it was October 2.

I had heard reports that they were seen elsewhere in the County, but I wondered "What happened to mine?" Were they burned up in one of the fires north of us? Were their feeding and breeding grounds in Oregon and Washington destroyed by an overaggressive "vegetation management" (i.e., habitat destruction) project? These worries beset me.

There is no doubt that bird populations everywhere are facing new dangers. But existing state and national laws that protect birds and their habitats apply mainly just to species already designated as endangered, threatened or of "special concern." The laws leave out common species like Golden-crowned Sparrows, Robins, Oak Titmice, California Towhees,

I can breathe a sigh of relief. "My" Golden-crowned Sparrows have finally returned to our yard. Three weeks later than usual. Yes, I actually keep track of these things.

The GCS's usually

and even Scrub Jays.

These common species, whether they migrate here or live here year-round, depend on the natural habitats of California for their survival. And their habitats right here in Lake County are being systematically destroyed on many fronts: Irresponsible "vegetation management" in the name of fire protection, cannabis and other agricultural development, housing projects, road improvements, and individual actions.

I am not suggesting that any of these activities be halted. I am suggesting that local officials involved in granting permits and taking regulatory actions give more consideration to impacts on the county's shrinking natural areas. They often turn a blind eye to harmful and outright obvious violations of our environmental laws, including the grading ordinance. This seems to be especially true if projects involve cannabis (because it is one of the few money-makers for the county) or "hazardous fuel" mitigation.

Citizens and the few environmental organizations we have in Lake County need to come together and show support for creating a "nature-friendly community" here. I'm not even talking about new laws. I'm talking about enforcing the laws we have and educating and informing developers and agencies on what we citizens expect from them.

## 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](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.

## *Avian Flu continues to impact birds*

Avian flu continues to affect waterfowl primarily, and the raptors and scavengers that feed on them. The website listed at the end of this article provides detailed information.

Bird experts are extremely concerned about the flu's potential deadly impact on the thousands of ducks, geese, cranes, and other migrants coming to the Central Valley this winter.

Songbirds don't seem to be affected, so birders can keep their feeders up. But it is definitely very important to keep them clean. At least once a week, empty them out, clean them, and sanitize with a solution of ten percent household bleach in water. Soak and let dry completely before refilling with fresh seed. Do the same for birdbaths.

View this CDC webpage for more information: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/data-map-wild-birds.html>

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## *Field Trip Calendar 2022-2023*

**Please note. Field trips will start at 9 a.m. unless otherwise announced in the newsletter.**

### **October 22**

Wright Wetland Preserve

### **November 19**

Highland Springs Reservoir

### **December**

Christmas Bird Count TBA

### **January 21, 2023**

Colusa and Sacramento National Wildlife Refuges

### **February 18, 2023**

Reclamation Area near Upper Lake

Details for each field trip will be published in the preceding newsletter, including directions and start time if different from 9 a.m. The March through May field trips have yet to be determined but will be announced in upcoming newsletters. Put these dates on your calendar and plan for a fun day of birding with friends!

## *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.

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.

## *Welcome new members*

Welcome to new and returning members: Henry Montgomery, Clearlake Oaks; Barbara Rogers, Lower Lake; Marion Rita Franklin, Stonyford; Karin Woodrum, Cobb; Joyce Reim, Cobb; Ginger Kite and Ron Pere, Lower Lake; and Erica J. Lundquist, Witter Springs.

# 2021-22 Chapter Financial Report

## Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.

### July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022

Revenues	Audubon Membership Revenue	\$2,499
	Contributions	1,732
	Sales (books, booth sales)	0
	Interest	<u>2</u>
	<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$4,233</b>
	Cost of Goods Sold	<u>\$0</u>
	<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$4,233</b>
Expenditures	Administration	\$2,887
	Educational Programs & Events	1,311
	Newsletter Printing/Mailing	2,858
	Marketing Outreach	837
	Storage rental	<u>1,422</u>
	<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$9,315</b>
	<b>Net Income in Operating Funds</b>	<b>-\$5,082</b>
	Beginning Retained Earnings 6/30/21	\$35,878
	Net Income 2020-2021	-5,082
	Ending Retained Earnings 6/30/22	\$30,796
Assets	Cash & Equivalents (Checking, Savings, etc)	\$29,760
	Inventory Held for Sale	1,195
	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$30,955</b>
Liabilities	Accounts Payable	160
	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$160</b>
Funds	Reserved (Osprey Fund)	5,493
	Unreserved (Not Committed)	24,267
	<b>Total Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$29,760</b>





*Enjoying the view while searching for species.*

## ***Stonehouse Winery field trip yields 22 species***

On Sept. 17 just two people attended the first field trip of the year at the Stonehouse Winery on Old Long Valley Road near Clearlake Oaks. Despite that, 22 species were spotted during a leisurely walk around the 1906 Stonehouse which at one time served as a stagecoach stop.

Among the species seen were: Wrentits, American Kestrel, Red-tailed Hawks, Scrub Jays, CA Towhees and CA Quail. Western Bluebirds, Oak Titmouse, Acorn Woodpeckers and Western Meadowlarks can always be spotted, with other woodland species, near the vineyards that are surrounded by oaks.

The willows at the pond were a great place to look for Black Phoebes, Anna's and Rufous Hummingbirds, Yellow-rumped and Yellow Warblers, and a Great Blue Heron.

Mark your calendars and join us on Oct. 22 for the next field trip: Lake County Land Trust's Wright Wetland Preserve on Soda Bay Road. (See article on the following page.)



*The type of habitat found at Stonehouse.*



*The pond at Stonehouse Winery and Vineyards.*



*Last May the Redbud Audubon Society participated in Mental Health Awareness Month by staffing a table at a special Mental Health Day held at Library Park in Lakeport. Launched by Mental Health America in 1949, this is the most highly recognized mental health awareness event in the United States. Redbud Audubon sees getting outside to bird as a potentially important factor in improving individual's mental health. Pictured are former Redbud Audubon board member, Lisa Prather (R) and volunteer Carol Hayes.*

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## *Wright Wetlands Preserve field trip gives members a chance to reunite!*

Have you missed seeing your friends from Redbud? Here's the opportunity you've been waiting 2-1/2 years for: To finally see them in person again! Outdoors in the fresh air! With excellent exercise, to boot! Join us on this month's field trip on Saturday, Oct. 22 starting at 9 a.m.

Besides all these good reasons to come on this field trip, the destination is a property you can't yet visit on your own. The Wright Wetland Preserve on the shoreline of Clear Lake in Lakeport was purchased by the Lake County Land Trust in 2019 as part of its strategic plan to acquire priority wetlands areas critical to preserving important wildlife and bird habitats in the county.

The group will be led by experienced birders and members of both Redbud Audubon and the Land Trust. Be prepared to see migrating songbirds, raptors, woodpeckers and more.

Although there is no picnic area for a bag lunch gathering after the field trip, you can join friends for a catch-up visit and lunch at one of the several good restaurants in Lakeport with both outdoor and indoor seating.

Make this a special occasion for both friendship and good birding!

The Wright Wetland Preserve is located at 446 Soda Bay Road. Coming from Lakeport, heading east on Soda Bay Road, the preserve is the second driveway on the left after going over the Manning Creek Bridge. It is just a short distance past the large recycling/transfer station. If you have any questions please call Redbud Audubon at (707) 805-9410 and leave a message or email: [redbud.audubon@gmail.com](mailto:redbud.audubon@gmail.com). The field trip starts at 9 a.m. and be sure to be on time as someone will be waiting at the entrance to guide participants into the property.

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## REDBUD AUDUBON BOARD OF DIRECTORS



### OFFICERS

*President:* Roberta Lyons

*Vice President:* Donna Mackiewicz

*Treasurer:* Nicola Selph

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*Past-President:* Marilyn Waits

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Field Trips - Donna Mackiewicz & Roberta Lyons

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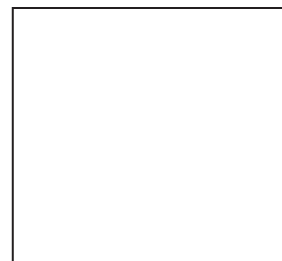
Social Media - Donna Mackiewicz

**To contact a board member:**

**Phone 707/805-9410**

**Email: [redbud.audubon@gmail.com](mailto:redbud.audubon@gmail.com)**

**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.

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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  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$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*