



The Western Grebe

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

www.redbudaudubon.org

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Researchers to present program on Cormorants' use of urban structures for nesting habitat



Double-crested Cormorant

Get ready for a truly fascinating program about Double-crested Cormorants featured for the Redbud Audubon Society's Thursday, Nov. 17, Zoom program starting at 7 p.m.

Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) are seabirds known to use urban structures as nesting habitat. The old east span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge and the eastern portion of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge have hosted the two largest colonies of this species in the region.

Scientists Marc Rauzon and Meredith Elliott, who have studied these birds for three decades, will discuss their research which, among other things, shows the population dynamics of this resilient species. Viewers will also learn about their efforts to study the Bay Area population of this adaptable, yet maligned, bird.

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REDBUD AUDUBON

NOVEMBER MEETING

Thursday, November 17, 2022, 7 PM

Topic: Cormorants' use of urban structures
for nesting habitat

Presenters: Scientists Marc Rauzon and Meredith Elliott

To register for this Zoom meeting, click link:

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

Or visit RedbudAudubon.org and click on the registration link

Or scan the following QR code:





Double-crested Cormorants

Cormorants utilize urban structures for nesting

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Rauzon was with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, where he studied sea birds and endangered marine mammals in Hawaii, Alaska, and California. He is also an expert on the effects of invasive animals and plants on tropical islands. His latest book *Isles of Amnesia* (available on Amazon) details his experiences. Rauzon is also a research associate with Point Blue and a Geography professor at Laney College in Oakland.

Elliott is a Senior Scientist at Point Blue Conservation Science and has worked on a variety of seabird monitoring and diet projects. She supervises the Point Blue marine laboratory where data on marine food webs are collected. She is a program leader with the ACCESS



Meredith Elliott

Program (www.accessoceans.org), an at-sea monitoring program founded by Point Blue, Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary.

To register for the program, click on the link in this newsletter if you receive it in your email; or, go to www.redbudaudubon.org and click on the link on the home page that will take you to the registration form.



Marc Rauzon

President's Message

by Roberta Lyons

Paying closer attention to the small things



Roberta Lyons

I've always considered myself pretty observant about looking around when I am outdoors. But thanks to Donna Mackiewicz, our relatively new Redbud Audubon board member and volunteer, I've learned to pay closer attention to small things like a fly, bee, or butterfly fluttering around my flowering plants.

It's because of Donna's influence that I became interested in the moths fluttering around my Salvia plants the other evening. Have they been there before, and I just never paid attention? I really don't know. I went outside and counted

numerous small moths obviously functioning as pollinators.

To show my ignorance, I didn't know that moths were pollinators! I have never really thought much about what moths do. I came up with the best description I could (they were impossible to photograph as they never stopped fluttering) and discovered through a google search that they most likely are Owlet Moths. They exist here in our county, they are pollinators, and the internet image matched what I was seeing.

So thank you Donna, for setting a good example of being super-observant when out in nature.

As you should notice in this newsletter, our planned trip to Highland Springs has been cancelled, but we are looking forward to a joint field trip on Saturday, Nov. 12 with Anderson Marsh State Historic Park volunteers. We will meet at the parking lot at the State Park at 8:30. Hope to see you there!

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.



Birds you will like see during the Christmas Bird Count



House Finches



Chestnut-backed Chickadee



Northern Flicker

Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is set for Dec. 17, 2022

Redbud Audubon Society will carry out its annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on Saturday, Dec. 17. (CBC) is a traditional project of Audubon societies around the country. Former participants will be sent information about meeting times and places by the count organizers, Brad and Kathy Barnwell; the public is also welcome to participate and can do so by emailing Redbud Audubon at redbud.audubon@gmail.com for more information

Previous to the bird count, on Thursday, Dec. 15 starting at 7 p.m. Doug and Lisa Prather will host a Zoom Bird Identification 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. The Zoom registration will be in the December Western Grebe newsletter.

National Audubon has been holding a Christmas Bird Count for 123 years. The official count period

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Christmas Bird Count

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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.



Anna's Hummingbird

Highland Springs field trip cancelled; Join friends at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park on Nov. 12

Due to a variety of conflicts, the planned field trip to Highland Springs Reservoir on Nov. 19 has been cancelled. Instead, everyone is urged to join the State Park sponsored trip, led by state park volunteers at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park starting at 8:30 a.m. Please note the time change from our usual start time of 9 a.m. The park is located on Highway 53 between Lower Lake and the City of Clearlake.

A walk is held every second Saturday at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park and it is open to the public, so Audubon members are always welcome to attend. Expect to see songbirds and raptors and enjoy a beautiful morning in our State Park.



Western Bluebird

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.



On the trail at the Wright Wetland Preserve; Maddie Mitchell on the left, Meg Harper, Marilyn Waits and Sue Kahn.



Kathryn Lindsley, (R) Sue Kahn and Maddie Mitchell enjoyed birding at the Wright Wetlands Preserve. That's Herman Strik in the background with his camera.



Sandy Collins (L) and Darlene Hecomovich enjoyed the Redbud Audubon field trip at the Wright Wetland Preserve in October.

Field Trip at Wright Wetland Preserve was a special day

The October field trip at the Lake County Land Trust's Wright Wetland Preserve near Lakeport was a special day with 19 people showing up to enjoy a brisk morning of birding and companionship.

The Wright Preserve is located off of Soda Bay Road, south of Lakeport and boasts 200 acres of grassland, oak woodlands, tules and extensive shoreline on Clear Lake. It is part of the Lake County Land Trust's Big Valley Wetlands Preservation plan and a recent acquisition by the Land Trust.

The trip was led by Donna Mackiewicz and Roberta Lyons. Donna counted 50 species of birds seen that day.

Highlights of the day were a Bald Eagle, Say's Phoebe, a pair of White-tailed kite and a Northern Harrier. Three species of woodpecker were sighted, along with numerous sparrows, warblers, and other passerines. For those who were able to "bushwhack," out to the lake, there were sightings of White Pelicans, mallards, Green-winged Teal, Ruddy Duck, killdeer, Northern Shovelers and numerous "peeps."

This month, Redbud Audubon will join State Park volunteers and members of the Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association (AMIA) who will guide a walk at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park near Lower Lake. The originally scheduled Redbud Audubon field trip at Highland Springs on Nov. 19 has been cancelled due to a variety of conflicts that day. The Anderson Marsh State Historic Park walk is on Saturday, Nov. 12 and starts at 8:30 (not 9 a.m.) from the parking lot of the park.



Sue Kahn and Maddie Mitchell (L) of Soda Bay joined a group at the Wright Wetland Preserve.



Harry Lyons identifying a warbler.

Field Trip Calendar 2022-2023

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

November 12 – Anderson Marsh State
Historic Park (**Starting at 8:30 a.m.**)

December 17 – Christmas Bird Count

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!

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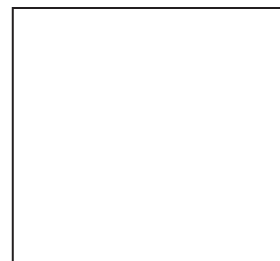
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Redbud Audubon
PO Box 5780
Clearlake, CA 95422



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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.

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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

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