



# *The Western Grebe*

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

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

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## Bird Identification is topic of upcoming Redbud Audubon Zoom program



*Red-breasted nuthatch are a common passerine in Lake County that should be seen on the count.*  
Photo by Brad Barnwell

The Redbud Audubon Society will present a comprehensive Bird Identification program on Thursday Dec. 15, starting at 7 p.m. The program will be presented on Zoom by Donna Mackiewicz who is an avid birder and naturalist. The program is in preparation for Redbud's 48<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC).

Donna spends her days either viewing birds at her Clearlake Oaks Keys residence or visiting the many prime birding spots in Lake County.

The program will consist of extensive images with discussion centering on distinguishing features of birds that are often seen in Lake County and expect to be seen during Redbud's annual Christmas Bird Count that is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 17.

To register for the program, click on the registration link in this newsletter or on the homepage at [www.redbudaudubon.org](http://www.redbudaudubon.org). The link will be sent on the day of the presentation.

### REDBUD AUDUBON

#### DECEMBER MEETING

Thursday, December 17, 2022, 7 PM

Topic: Bird Identification for the Christmas Bird Count

Presenter: Donna Mackiewicz

To register for this Zoom meeting, click link:

[Redbud Audubon Program Registration](#)

Or visit RedbudAudubon.org and click on the registration link

Or scan the following QR code:



# Plan to participate in Redbud Audubon's 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Bird Count set for Dec. 17

The Redbud Audubon Society will conduct its 48<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022. The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is a traditional project of Audubon societies around the country.

Previous participants have been sent information about meeting times and places by the count organizers, Brad and Kathy Barnwell, but new participants

are welcome. They can meet at either Anderson Marsh State Historic Park or Clear Lake State Park at 8 a.m. or may participate in smaller individual groups. Email Brad and Kathy at [bradleybarnwell@att.net](mailto:bradleybarnwell@att.net) to reserve your spot or to ask about participating in a smaller group within the count circle.

Prior to the bird count, on Thursday, Dec. 15 starting at 7 p.m. Donna Mackiewicz will host a Zoom Bird Identification program. Just click on the link in this newsletter, or go to [www.redbudaudubon.org](http://www.redbudaudubon.org) and click the "register" option on the home page. The link to join the program will be sent to you the day of the 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.

National Audubon has been holding a Christmas Bird Count for 125 years. The official count period 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.

Count volunteers follow specified routes through the designated 15-mile (24-km) diameter circle, counting every bird they see or hear all day. It's not just a species tally—all birds are counted all day, giving an indication of the total number of birds in the circle that day.

The data collected by each count group are then sent to the National Audubon Headquarters in New York and are made available online.

The Christmas Bird Count began more than a century ago when 27 conservationists in 25 localities, led by scientist and writer Frank Chapman, changed the course of ornithological history.

On Christmas Day in 1900, the small group posed an alternative to the "side hunt," a Christmas day activity in which teams competed to see who could

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## *New participants urged to join upcoming CBC*

The Redbud Audubon Society is encouraging new people to participate in the annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) this year on Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022.

Audubon would like to increase participation this year if possible. The two State Parks will be open to members of the public who wish to participate. All participants at each park are asked to reserve their spots; which can be done by calling Kathy or Brad Barnwell at (707) 272-1582, leave a message with your contact information, or email them at [bradleybarnwell@att.net](mailto:bradleybarnwell@att.net). There are also a couple of small groups that would like to add a member or two. "Please let us know if you have any friends or family who would like to join us," Kathy Barnwell urged.

Leaders will be asked to send in their report forms by mail to Kathy and Brad Barnwell, count coordinators, as the annual count dinner is still not being held because of Covid concerns.

The Barnwells will compile the data and send it out for review and approval. You can mail information to P.O. Box 554, Lakeport CA, 95453 or email [bradleybarnwell@att.net](mailto:bradleybarnwell@att.net).

# *Birds of the Count*

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*Great Egrets are enjoying fishing on the lake this time of year.*

## ***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 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.



# *Birds of the Count*

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*The Northern Flicker is also a common sighting. Photo by Brad Barnwell*



*Wrentits are secretive and make chaparral their home. They live in Lake County year around. Photo by Brad Barnwell*



# *Birds of the Count*

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*Robins are still frequenting the county and are always fun to see. Photo by Brad Barnwell*



# *Birds of the Count*

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*Green Herons live on Clear Lake all year long. If you are participating in the CBC near the lake or other water way, you might see one. Photo by Donna Mackiewicz*



# *Birds of the Count*

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*Red-breasted sapsucker. Photo by Brad Barnwell*



*Redwing Blackbird should be in Lake County in abundance. Photo by Donna Mackiewicz*



*Spotted Towhee. Photo by Brad Barnwell*

# Birds of the Count



*The Belted Kingfisher is another lake bird that you may be gifted in spotting during the upcoming CBC. Photo by Donna Mackiewicz*



*Western bluebird. Photo by Brad Barnwell*



*Adult killdeer. Photo by Donna Mackiewicz*



*Bonaparte's gull. Photo by Brad Barnwell*

## 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.

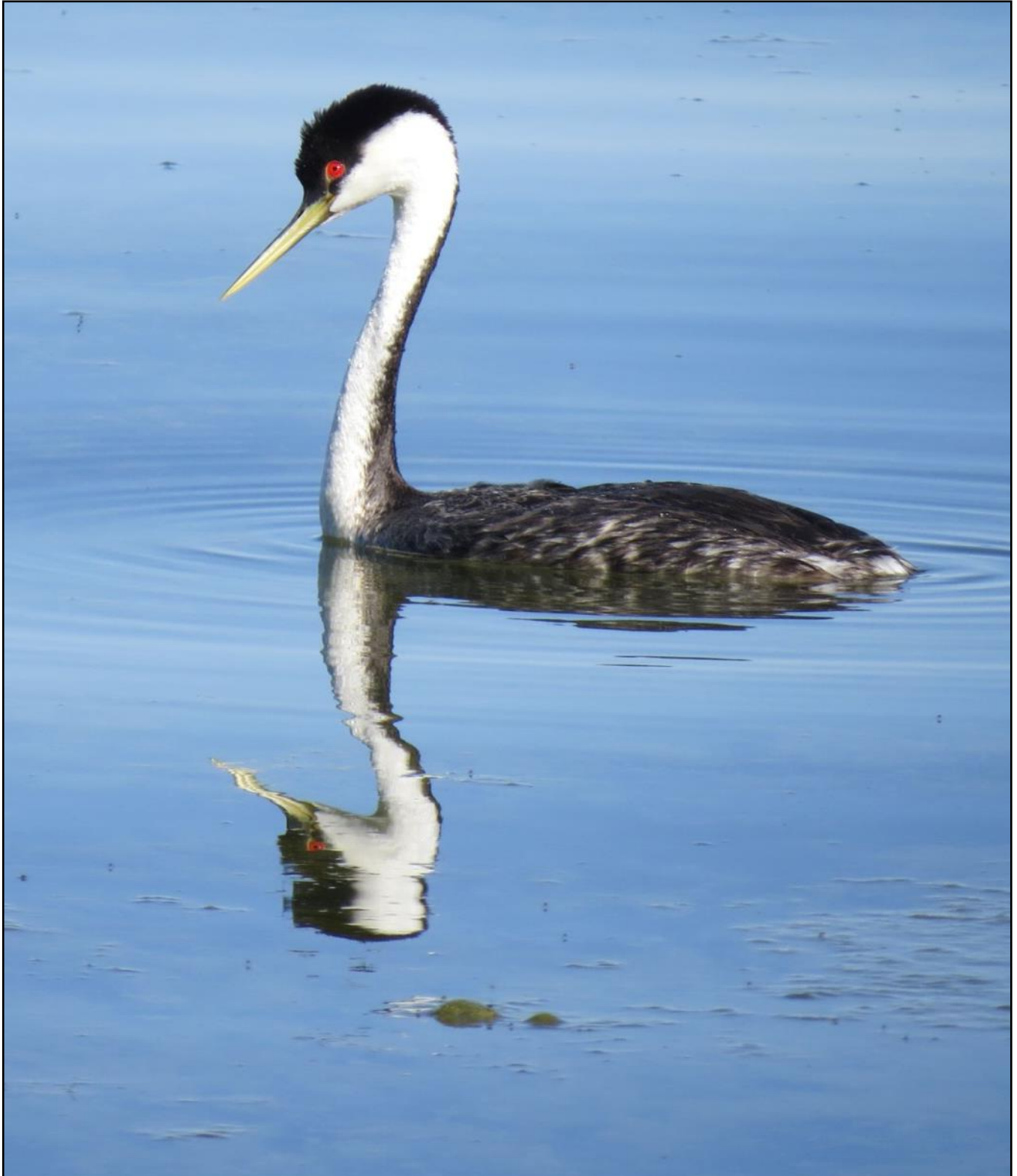
Also, as a reminder, if you are receiving this newsletter by regular mail and are open to receiving it by email, you can save the chapter significant printing and mailing costs by emailing us at [redbud.audubon@gmail.org](mailto:redbud.audubon@gmail.org) and letting us know.

If you prefer to receive the newsletter by mail, please consider donating \$10 - \$15 to Redbud Audubon.



# *Birds of the Count*

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*Western Grebes are on Clear Lake now in relative abundance, depending on the location. Photo by Donna Mackiewicz*

# President's Message

by Roberta Lyons



Roberta Lyons

this for several years now, taking over from Darlene Hecomovich (another awesome Redbud Audubon volunteer) who did it for many years.

Redbud Audubon is a strictly volunteer organization. We could always use more volunteer help whether you enjoy office type work or prefer to get out in nature to lead hikes or monitor nesting sites, you are needed! If you are interested in pitching in, email [redbud.audubon@gmail.com](mailto:redbud.audubon@gmail.com).

Except for some cold days, winter is my favorite time of year here in Lake County. This is when the migrating water fowl return and I never know what I'm going to see when I peer out my window at our beautiful ancient lake. The other day a small flock of Golden Eye had arrived, and now a nice group of Eared Grebes and the ubiquitous Ruddy Duck have joined them.

I've been hearing reports of Hermit Thrush in many people's yards. I've had from two to four in my yard for about a month now. This morning I was admiring a pair, when suddenly a Cooper's Hawk swept down and started his chase. I hope he didn't get one. It's funny how you can admire a bird like a Cooper's Hawk, and be thrilled to see one, until they go after one of your favorite songbirds!

Wishing everyone a great Holiday season. I hope we are able to gather more often in the upcoming year.

## *Birds of the Count*



*Savannah Sparrows are not as common as Golden-crowned or White-crowned here but they are known to migrate through. Photo by Donna Mackiewicz*

## Christmas Bird Count December 17

*(Continued from page 2)*

shoot the most birds and small mammals. Instead, Chapman proposed to identify, count, and record all the birds they saw, founding what is now considered to be the world's most significant citizen-based conservation effort – and century-old institution. Scientists rely on the remarkable trend data of Audubon's CBC to better understand how birds and the environment are faring throughout North America – and what needs to be done to protect them. Data from Audubon's signature Citizen Science program are at the heart of numerous peer-reviewed scientific studies.



## *Birds of the Count*



*If you're lucky, you might see a juvenile or mature Bald Eagle during the CBC. Photo by Roberta Lyons*

### ***Welcome new members***

Welcome to new and returning members: Elizabeth Partridge, Clearlake, CA; WD Mahan, Clearlake Oaks, CA; Cindy Guthrie, Kelseyville, CA; and Diane E Mclellan, Oak Park, IL.

### ***Field Trip Calendar 2022-2023***

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

**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!

## **REDBUD AUDUBON BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



### **OFFICERS**

*President:* Roberta Lyons

*Vice President:* Donna Mackiewicz

*Treasurer:* Nicola Selph

*Secretary:* Katherine Lindsley

*Past-President:* Marilyn Waits

### **CHAPTER LEADERSHIP**

Bird Observations - Jerry White

Christmas Bird Count - Brad & Kathy Barnwell

Conservation - Roberta Lyons & Donna Mackiewicz

Field Trips - Donna Mackiewicz & Roberta Lyons

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Webmaster - Bonnie Thompson

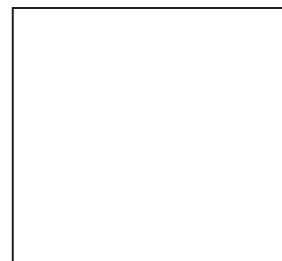
Social Media - Donna Mackiewicz

**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.

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.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

☐ 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*