



The Western Grebe

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

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Barred Owls threat to survival of the Spotted Owl in the Northwest is January's topic



The Barred Owl. All photos by Peter Carlson.

On Thursday Jan. 19 at 7 pm, Redbud Audubon will present a Zoom program on the explosive growth of Barred Owl populations in the Northwest and their impacts on Spotted Owls. Barred owls have been increasing in forests from Northern California to British Columbia for several decades and are now imperiling Northern Spotted Owls throughout their range. The newcomers outcompete the smaller owls for both territory and prey.

To address this problem, several Barred Owl removal studies have been initiated. In Northern California, these studies have included areas of local long-term demographic studies on Green Diamond timber company property, the Hoopa Indian Reservation, and the Six Rivers and Shasta-Trinity National Forests.

Peter Carlson, currently working for Colorado State University as a long-time member of the research team for the studies on national

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REDBUD AUDUBON

JANUARY MEETING

Thursday, January 19, 7 PM

Topic: Barred Owls threat to survival of the Spotted Owl in the Northwest

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:





Peter Carlson (left) with Hoopa biologist Mark Higley and a male Spotted Owl.

Impacts of Barred Owls on Spotted Owls

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forest lands, will discuss some of the impacts of Barred Owls, the species' recent trends, and status of the removal studies. While the impacts of Barred Owls are of real concern, that is only one of several ongoing threats to the Spotted Owl. Carlson will place the Barred Owl issue in the context of multiple stressors on Spotted Owls. These include catastrophic

wildfires, historical forest management practices, and climate change.

Carlson began studying Spotted Owls in the San Bernardino mountains in 1992 and has worked on the NW California demography study since 1994. He worked briefly with Barred Owls and other raptors in their native habitat in Illinois in 1986, prior to beginning his MS work in Wildlife Ecology at the University of Florida.

He previously worked for Humboldt State University as the field coordinator for the demography study, and since 2005 has worked through Colorado State University as a Research Associate for the study. He lives in Arcata CA.

To register for the program, click on the registration link in this newsletter (if you receive it by email) or on the homepage link at www.redbudaudubon.org. The Zoom link for the program will be sent on the day of the presentation.

Welcome new and returning members

Welcome new and returning members: Debbie J. Smith, Clearlake Oaks; Nancy Rhoades, Kelseyville; Paul S. Farley, Lakeport; Gretchen Morgane, Lakeport; Helen Lakey, Lower Lake; Ella Gralund, Lower Lake; and Denise M. Rushing, Upper Lake.



A female juvenile Northern Spotted Owl. Spotted Owls are endangered by Barred Owls.

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 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.

2022 Christmas Bird Count Preliminary Results

By Kathy Barnwell

Congratulations to our intrepid birders for participating in Redbud Audubon's 48th Christmas Bird Count held December 17, 2022! Although the morning temperatures were quite cold, with lows in the 20's, it was sunny all day with little wind and high temperatures in the 50's.

The preliminary species count reported so far is **131**, with **26,509 birds** seen by **16 separate groups** and **33 participants**. Compared to last year's 117 species and 12,289 birds, our totals are a great improvement. That said, over the last 26 years, 20 years had higher total birds seen, and 19 years had higher species counts.

A few of the birds seen in 2020 and missing in 2021 and again this year are: Virginia Rail, Sora, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Varied Thrush and Pine Siskin.

Birds seen in 2021 but not this year are: White-winged Scoter; Red-necked Grebe; Golden Eagle; Western Gull, Barn Owl, Northern Pygmy Owl, Loggerhead Shrike, Hutton's Vireo, Brown Creeper, Rock Wren and Great-tailed Grackle.

Uncommon birds seen this year are: **Blue-winged Teal**, **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Long-billed Dowitcher**, **Townsend's Solitaire** and **Lawrence's Goldfinch**. Low numbers are **Nuttall's Woodpecker** (15); **Oak Titmouse** (45), **Bushtit** (66), and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** (40); and high numbers are **Least Sandpiper** (219) and **Wilson's Snipe** (21).

The importance of having many participants and groups covering our count circle is shown by the great bird sightings below. Without all the eyes and ears out there, many of these birds would have been missed. Although many species are seen by several groups, there are a few groups who can boast being the only participants to see a specific bird. There were nine groups who can share the boasting rights to being the only group to see one or more of the great bird sightings listed.

Blue-winged Teal (1)
Band-tailed Pigeon (38)
Canvasback (1)
Western Screech Owl (2)
Red-breasted Merganser (2)
Lewis's Woodpecker (1)
Ring-necked Pheasant (2)
Pygmy Nuthatch (2)
Green Heron (1)
Marsh Wren (3)
White-tailed Kite (2)
Golden-crowned Kinglet (1)
Cooper's Hawk (1)
Townsend's Solitaire (1)
Ferruginous Hawk (1)
Bell's Sparrow (1)
Long-billed Dowitcher (4)
Rufous-crowned Sparrow (1)
Bonaparte's Gull (55)
Short-billed (Mew) Gull (1)
Hooded Oriole (1)
Lawrence's Goldfinch (1)
Glaucous-winged Gull (2)

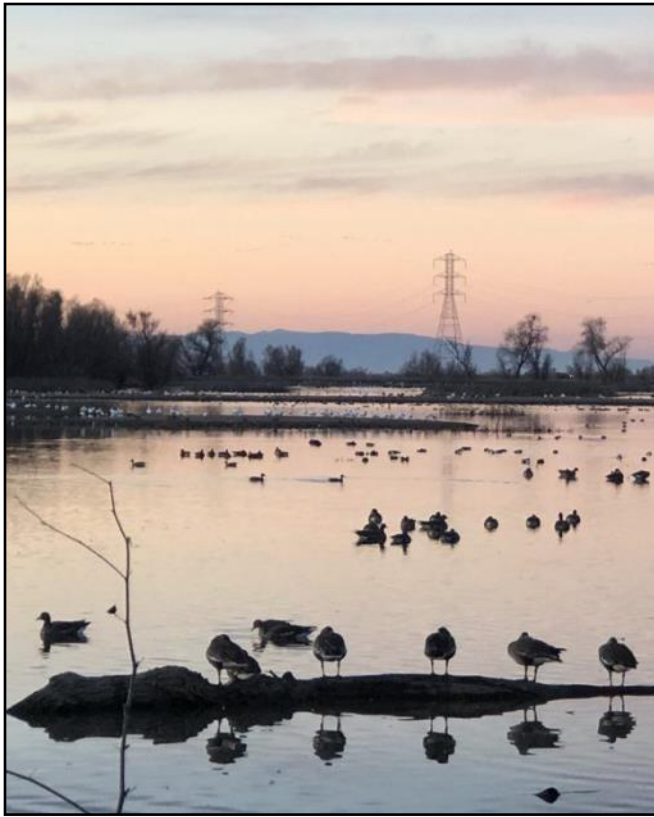
Using preliminary numbers, the top three species this year are:

- 1. Ruddy Duck: 5,606**
- 2. Western Grebe: 3,720**
- 3. Common Merganser: 1,970**

We are so grateful for everyone who participates in the count each year, either in a group, or by birding at your own homes.

Your willingness to spend many hours birding in the field and more hours at home putting together all your reporting forms is appreciated so much. Your exceptional efforts result in an accurate and complete account of birds located in our count circle year after year.

We hope all participants had a wonderful day of birding and will plan to join us next year on December 16, 2023, for Redbud Audubon's 49th Annual Christmas Bird Count.



Look for the power lines at the Colusa NWR as a landmark for the refuge.



Join our field trip on Saturday, Jan. 21, to the Colusa and Sacramento National Wildlife Refuges.



Pintails, Widgeons, Shovelers, Egrets, Herons and more will be seen at the NWRs in January.

Join Redbud Audubon's annual trip to the Sacramento NWRs

Everyone is invited to join Redbud Audubon for its annual field trip to two Sacramento Wildlife Refuges (NWRs) on Saturday, Jan. 21. This is a wonderful opportunity to see thousands of migrating water birds and observe them up close. Participants are asked to arrange their own transportation and carpooling as the chapter is unable to provide carpooling because of insurance reasons.

Redbud attendees will meet as a group at 9 am at the Colusa Wildlife Refuge parking lot. We usually begin by spending 30-45 minutes on the Observation Platform. We will then enjoy the auto tour of the preserve, driving along an elevated road. Most of the ponds along the auto tour are flooded, again offering close views of the birds.

The refuge is located at 2180 State Highway 20 East, Colusa, shortly after Williams. It's a little tricky finding the entrance road; it is the second sign about the refuge. PGE transmission lines near the entrance road will let you know you are in the right area. If you have GPS on your phone, you should be fine.

After the Colusa tour, interested participants will travel on to the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge. Drive north on Interstate 5 about 25 miles and exit at the Sacramento NWR sign. The address is 752 County Rd. 99W Willows, CA. Again, a little tricky if you have never been there, but we can caravan from Colusa. There are several observation decks along the six-mile auto tour. There is also a walking trail that will be open if not weather-impacted. The Visitor Center restrooms and kiosks are currently being re-modeled and are closed to the public, but portable restrooms are provided at the Visitor Center parking lot. There is a \$6 fee at this extensive NWR.

Need more information? Call Donna at (405) 227-6020 or email redbudaudubon@gmail.com.

President's Message | by Roberta Lyons



Roberta Lyons

In last January's "President's Message" I was wondering what had happened to those good old "California rains" that I remember as a child. In the throes of a drought (which we are still in, despite the current rain) I was bemoaning the fact that we just weren't having any substantial rain. Well, obviously that sure isn't the case for this January!

As much as I love the rain, and as much as we need it, I know it may also be causing problems for some of you, so my thoughts go out to anyone who is being negatively impacted by our recent storms.

At the beginning of a new year, a traditional activity is to make resolutions for improvement. One of my resolutions this year is to expand Redbud Audubon's activities to reach more of the community. Working in conjunction with other local environmental groups, I hope we can raise awareness of Lake County residents that anything we are able to do for birds -- even on an individual basis -- can make a difference. Any action is important, from providing water and shelter to songbirds, to planting trees and shrubs that provide native berries and host insects for our winged friends to consume. Conservation Co-Chair Donna Mackiewicz and I have plans to engage youngsters in helping our local birds, and we hope that by doing so, their parents will get involved too.

Lake County has so much promise. It is just a matter of getting people who live here and the people who are "in charge" to recognize how stewarding our native habitats can improve not only the lives of birds and animals, but the lives of people too.

Let's begin this new year with a deep appreciation of this beautiful place where we live: Forested mountains, chaparral-covered hillsides, lovely creeks and reservoirs and -- the highlight of the county -- Clear Lake, the oldest natural lake in the Northern Hemisphere. There is much to be appreciated here and much to look forward to in this New Year.

Sierra Club to hold community forum

At 6PM on Wednesday Jan. 18, recently-appointed Lake County Community Development Director Mireya Turner will join the Sierra Club to discuss future directions for her department: this is an opportunity to explore ways to collaborate to ensure that healthy ecosystems and outdoor recreation are included as essential parts of community planning and development. Please bring your questions and concerns to share with Mireya.

Although the meeting is free and open to the public as always, registration is required: everyone who signs up will receive confirmation and Zoom connection details, and a followup email a day or so before the event. To RSVP, go to the Lake Group website at <https://www.sierraclub.org/redwood/lake> and click the link in the embedded calendar.

Pleistocene Park screening January 29

At 2:30 p.m. on Sunday Jan. 29, The Sierra Club Lake Group is partnering with the Soper Reese Theater and Middletown Art Center to sponsor a special screening of the film *Pleistocene Park*, which tells the story of "a Russian scientist -- part genius, part madman -- a vanished ice age ecosystem, a climatic time bomb, and a crazy plan to save the world" by restoring the Ice Age "mammoth steppe" ecosystem and avoiding a catastrophic feedback loop leading to runaway global warming.

Award-winning locally-rooted filmmaker Lucas Griswold-Tergis will discuss the film and its implications. A Lower Lake High School graduate, Griswold studied cultural anthropology and ethnographic film at University of California, Santa Cruz, and currently resides part time in San Francisco and part time in Haines, Alaska. His first film, *Smokin' Fish*, played at film festivals around the world and was broadcast nationally on PBS. *Pleistocene Park*, recently released, has already won prestigious awards at numerous film festivals.

Advance tickets are available by voluntary donation at www.soperreesetheater.com or at the door: no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

2023 Field Trip Calendar

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

January 21, 2023

Colusa and Sacramento National Wildlife Refuges

February 18, 2023

Reclamation Area near Upper Lake

March 18 – 2023

Clear Lake State Park

April – 15, 2023 – TBA

May 20, 2023 - TBA

Details for each field trip will be published in that month's newsletter, including directions and start time if different from 9 a.m. The April and 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!

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.

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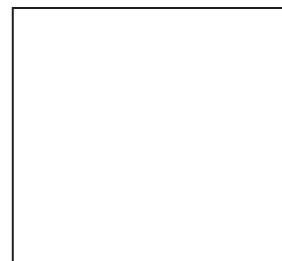
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National Audubon/Redbud Audubon
Joint Membership Application
New Member Introductory Rate — \$20 for the first year

☐ **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
Connecting People with Nature since 1974