



The Western Grebe

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

www.redbudaudubon.org

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Redbud Audubon welcomes Antarctica traveler for first meeting of the season

The Redbud Audubon society will host Ariana Rickard who will present a fascinating program on Antarctica on Thursday, Sept. 21 at 7 p.m. on Zoom.

“After this hot summer, Redbud Audubon will take you to frozen Antarctica for our first meeting of the new program year,” noted Redbud’s President Donna Mackiewicz. “Have you dreamed of visiting the astonishing terrain of Antarctica and seeing penguins, seals, whales, and glaciers? Do you wish you could experience a place teeming with life that few people get to see?”

Speaker Ariana Rickard will take you there through photos, videos, and stories from her trip earlier this year. Learn about the adorable penguins, majestic whales, seals, sea lions, and bird life that thrive in this harsh environ-

(Continued on page 2)



Ariana Rickard will present her Antarctica adventures at Redbud’s September program.

REDBUD AUDUBON

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Thursday, September 21, 7 PM

Topic: Antarctica Speaker: Ariana Rickard

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:





Weddell Seal. Photo by Ariana Rickard

Learn about Antarctica at first monthly meeting

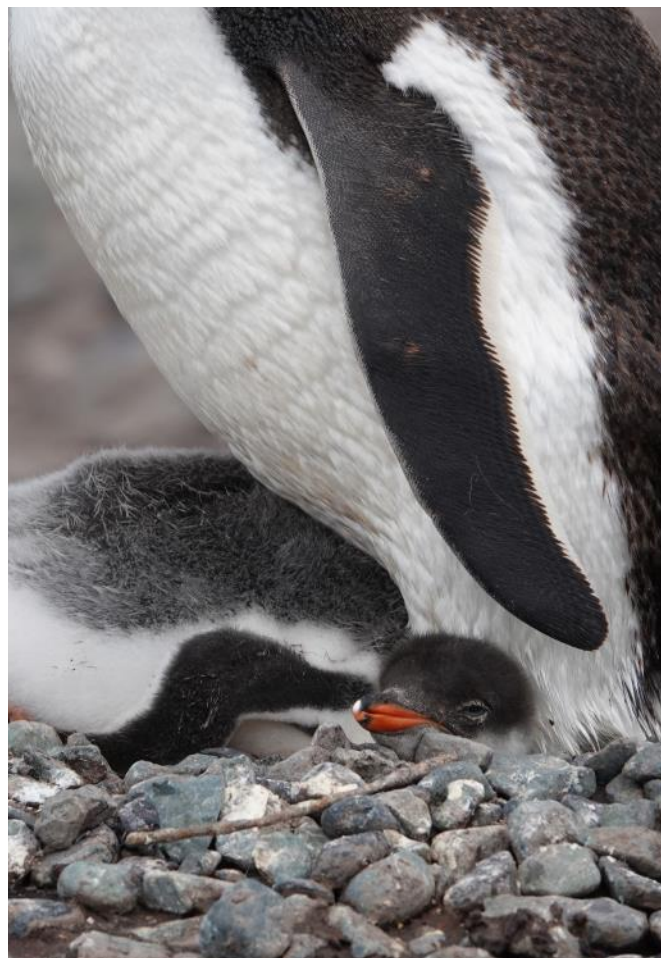
ment. You won't even have to cross the dreaded Drake Passage to experience Antarctica.

Ariana will also discuss the impacts of climate change on the Frozen Continent, which is losing sea ice at an alarming rate. The loss of sea ice in Antarctica can have global implications, contributing to sea level rise worldwide.

Ariana Rickard earned her BA from Harvard in Environmental Science and Public Policy and her MS from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, with a focus on Ecology. She is the Public Policy and Funding Program Manager at Sonoma Land Trust. Ariana has worked for several federal government agencies, including the Peace Corps in Ecuador, and numerous environmental nonprofits, such as Audubon California. She is Vice-President and Program Chair for Mt. Diablo Audubon in the Bay Area. She also serves on the chapter's Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee.

Ariana and her husband live in Pacheco with their two young sons and their indoor cat Mando, and they are hoping a bluebird family will take up residence next spring in their nest box in the backyard.

Pre-registration for the Zoom program is required and can be accomplished by clicking on the link in this newsletter or by going to the website: www.redbudaudubon.org and clicking on the link on the home page.



A Gentoo baby penguin. Photo by Ariana Rickard

President's Message *by Donna Mackiewicz*



Donna Mackiewicz

Welcome to the beginning of another season of Redbud Audubon Society. For 49 years Redbud Audubon has been presenting educational programs, leading field trips, holding Christmas Bird Counts and commenting on environmental issues in Lake County. It is amazing how dedicated volunteers have been able to continue the mission of Audubon for all of these decades.

As I begin my time representing the chapter, I have to recognize the current board members and active volunteers who for years have dedicated their time to our chapter: Roberta Lyons, Marilyn Waits, Nicola Selph, Susanne Scholz, Katherine Lindsley, Jim Scholz, Jerry White, Brad and Kathy Barnwell, and Bonnie Thompson.

If you would like to join our dedicated volunteers just email us at redbud.audubon@gmail.com or give us a call at (707) 805-9410 and leave a message. We are seeking volunteers for bluebird nest box monitoring, fishing line collections, educational outreach, and field trip leaders.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Zoom meeting and September's field trip.



Learn about Chinstrap penguins and other animals at the first Redbud chapter meeting on Thursday, September 21, as Ariana Rickard discusses her recent trip to Antarctica. Photo by Ariana Rickard

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 for which you ***must enroll via the internet.***

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 to defray printing and mailing expenses.

Legislative support needed!

Some of our members who are also members of National Audubon may receive email from National on legislative issues that affect our birds. National Audubon (as well as California Audubon) makes it easy to click on a link to locate your representatives in Congress and their email.

Your voice is important! Our voices together can make a difference. Redbud Audubon forwards pertinent legislative notices via email to you. We hope you will not mind if you receive them both from National Audubon and us. The protection of our bird life is extremely important.



A sample of a fishing line recycling bin; Redbud Audubon monitors many of this type of bin around Clear Lake.



Nicole Strong

Monofilament line is a danger to water birds and other wildlife.

Volunteers needed to collect fishing line from containers in Lakeport

The Redbud Audubon Society is seeking Lakeport volunteers to collect line from recycling fishing line bins at Skylark Motel, 3rd Street, and the 5th Street Boat Ramps in Lakeport.

Redbud Audubon, under the supervision of volunteer Robert Patton, monitors over 20 recycling bins around the lake. These bins have enabled anglers across the county to safely dispose of more than 20,000 miles (and counting) of fishing line.

Volunteers are asked to check the bins every week or every other week (depending on the season), place the line in a container, and pass it on to coordinator, Rob Patton. If you would like to volunteer for this project, an Audubon volunteer will accompany you to each of the bins and go over the process of emptying them. If this sounds like something you would be interested in, contact Donna Mackiewicz at (405) 227-6020.

Biodegradable options for fishing line and equipment are increasingly available, but many fishermen still use plastic and it's not biodegradable. Line that is broken, improperly disposed of or left behind can entangle and kill wildlife, damage boats and remain in the environment for years. According to research in collaboration with the NOAA Marine Debris Program, plastic fishing line takes 600 years to decompose; however, it doesn't completely degrade but instead breaks down into microplastics, which pollute the oceans, become increasingly toxic, harm marine life and are passed through the food chain. With hundreds of thousands of recreational fishermen in California, lost or discarded fishing line and tackle is a primary source of marine debris pollution.

There's still more work that needs to be done to ensure the future of Clear Lake. If you're ready to do your part, consider getting involved in our Fishing Line Recycling Program today. Time commitment is only a few minutes a visit.



Bluebirds are always fun to watch and a beautiful sight around a bird bath.

Would you like to participate in a program to help Lake County's cavity-nesting bluebirds?

Bluebirds are a symbol of happiness and believed to embody renewal and sunrise. Lake County is fortunate to have Western Bluebirds all year but the scientific data tells us their decline is a call for action. Region-wide, the Western Bluebird has declined 36.4% in the last 28 years and 28.5% in the last 15.

Bluebirds are secondary cavity nesters meaning they do not possess the physical capabilities to make their own cavities. They like nesting in decaying dead and dying trees and nest boxes. Besides not enough natural cavities they are plagued with competition from invasive species like House Sparrow and European Starling. Nest box programs effectively support the conservation of bluebirds, thus increasing their survival and population growth.

Eagle Scout Stanton Anderson, built and donated nest boxes to our local California Bluebird Recovery Program that is being spear-headed by Redbud Audubon Society's president, Donna Mackiewicz. She will be training volunteers on installation and monitoring in early February. Boxes will be available to people who want to install a bluebird nest box on their own property, and training in monitoring will be held for those interested in monitoring nest boxes at home or at the Lake County Land Trust's Rodman Preserve near Upper Lake.

This year's results of nest box success were a bit different than the previous year. Of the 17 boxes at the Rodman Preserve this year, 14 were inhabited by



Georgette Howington, right, delivers some nest boxes to Redbud Audubon's president, Donna Mackiewicz.

Tree Swallows, one by Ash-throated Flycatcher, and only two by Western Bluebirds. It was a battle keeping out the House Sparrows. One bluebird box was not successful, but the bluebirds in the other box, with the monitor's help, succeeded in producing six fledglings for the season.

If you'd like more information on becoming involved with bluebird recovery contact Donna at 405-227-6020 or send redbud.audubon@gmail.com your information.



Enjoy the first field trip of the season at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park.

Join us for a September 23 field trip to Anderson Marsh State Historic Park

Redbud Audubon's first field trip of the year will be held on Saturday, September 23rd at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park, 8400 Highway 53 (between Lower Lake and Clearlake). Meet in the parking lot at 8:45 and don't forget to feed the iron ranger!!! Parking fee is \$4 and the payment spot is located as you drive into the parking lot on the right side of the entrance, right before you park.

Anderson Marsh State Historic Park is always a beautiful walk. You will walk through grass lands, pass Cache Creek and venture through two types of Oak forests.

Please arrive on time as the group will be leaving promptly at 9 a.m.

For more info, email redbud.audubon@gmail.com or call (707) 805-9410 and leave a message.

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.

Welcome new and returning members

Welcome new and returning members: Dianne Sokoloski, Clearlake Oaks; Eleanor Harr, Kelseyville; Daniel Meyer, Lakeport; Charles Campbell, Middletown; Sue Depriest, Stonyford; Barbara J Harrold, Redding; Ann Nolasco, Lower Lake; Dan Traverso, Clearlake; Valerie Nixon, Kelseyville; Margaret R Harper, Lakeport; Laisne Hamilton, Lakeport; Donna Doughty, Lucerne; and Sam Euston, Middletown.



Two **TRUMPETER SWANS** were found at the Reclamation area on February 3rd 2023 by Dave Bengston and Bill Oldham. This was the 2nd record for Lake County.

A **WHITE-WINGED SCOTER** was found on the Christmas Bird Count on December 18th 2021 by Tess McGuire on Clear Lake. This was the 4th county record.

A **SWAINSON'S HAWK** was seen on May 2nd 2022 near Spring Valley by Linda Pittman. Five **BLACK-BELLIED PLOVERS** flew past Lakeside County Park on October 16th 2021. This was the highest number recorded for the county. Dave Woodward had a **LONG-BILLED CURLEW** on July 14th 2021 at Rodman Slough. A **PARASITIC JAEGER** was seen from Clear Lake State Park on October 9th 2020 by Elias Elias. A **SABINES GULL** was photographed by Dave Woodward on the shores of Clear Lake on September 19th 2021. This was the 2nd county record. A **BLACK SKIMMER** was found on Clear Lake near Clearlake Oaks by Joshua Bush on January 15th, 2023 for the counties 2nd record. Very likely the same bird was found again at Austin Park by Floyd Hayes on January 21st. The skimmer was seen by many observers including Dave Woodward, Nikki White and JRW. A **BLACK SWIFT** flew over a residence in Kelseyville on May 28th 2023 (JRW). A **YELLOW-GREEN VIREO** was found at Lakeside County Park on October 2nd 2021 by Liz West and Linda Pittman. The bird was seen again on October 3rd by JRW. This was a first county record. A **BLACK-THROATED SPARROW** was at the Reclamation Area on October 4th 2020 found by Dave Woodward and seen by Darlene Hecomovich. This was the 2nd county record. Six **CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPURS** were at the Wright property on October 15th 2021 found by Dave Woodward. This was the 2nd County record.



REDBUD AUDUBON BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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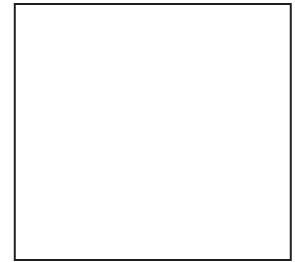
Social Media - Donna Mackiewicz

To contact a board member:

Phone 707/805-9410

Email: 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.
Newsletter by email \$25/year; by regular mail \$35/year.

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

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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