



The Western Grebe

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

www.redbudaudubon.org

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Bird Identification is topic of upcoming Redbud Audubon Zoom program



Chestnut-backed Chickadee

The Redbud Audubon Society will present a comprehensive Bird Identification program on Thursday Dec. 14, 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 49th 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. 16.

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REDBUD AUDUBON

DECEMBER MEETING

Thursday, December 14, 7 PM

Speaker: Donna Mackiewicz

Topic: Bird Identification

To register for this Zoom meeting, click link:

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

Or visit RedbudAudubon.org and click on the registration link

Or scan the
following QR code:





House Finch



White-breasted Nuthatch

Birds of Lake County



Northern Flicker

Learn to identify birds in time for the Christmas Bird Count

(Continued from page 1)

To register for the program, click on the registration link in this newsletter or on the homepage at www.redbudaudubon.org. The link will be sent on the day of the presentation.



Bewick's Wren



Anna's Hummingbird



Western Grebe

Audubon memberships 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.

President's Message *by Donna Mackiewicz*



Donna Mackiewicz

It's almost the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) day.

Are you on the fence about participating? Consider these great benefits:

- You're contributing to bird conservation.
- You're getting some much-needed fresh air in the dead of winter.
- You're getting a chance to explore your area.
- You're going to learn more about birds.
- You're going to make new friends.

Redbud Audubon has been conducting a Christmas Bird County for almost 50 years. We have many returning participants, and new participants are encouraged to join leaders at either Clear Lake State Park or Anderson Marsh State Historic Park.

The data collected on Christmas Bird Counts is helpful to bird scientists who use the information to monitor population changes by revealing the impact of diseases, climate change, environment and land development.

Can I help even if I don't know much about birds?

The Christmas Bird Count is set up to be a teaching opportunity, so don't let your lack of "bird smarts" hold you back. Redbud Audubon is eager to have bird spotters of every skill level join in the Count. In fact, leaders are ready to teach you everything you need to know about spotting birds and re-cording your observations!

Ready to join us? Kathy and Brad Barnwell are Redbud's CBC coordinators and can be reached by emailing bradleybarnwell@att.net or call them at (707) 263-1283.

This month's Zoom presentation can refresh everyone's memories of what sightings there will be. The presentation is Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. You can register at www.redbudaudubon.org.

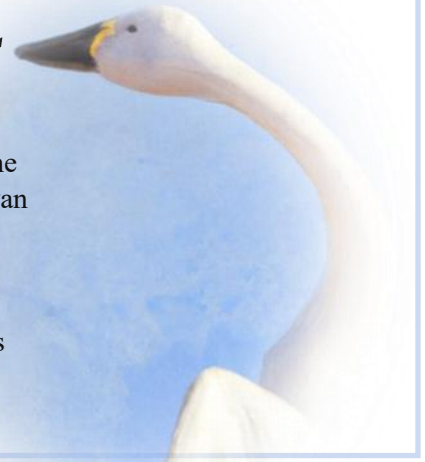
After the presentation Sarah Angulo, UC Davis, will share information on a new program, "Caring for Clear Lake through Environmental Education and Community and Citizen Science". The program shares environmental education materials, at no cost, to support youth and others in their own ongoing work to take good care of Clear Lake and its watersheds.

Until then, enjoy the migration!

CDFW offers Tundra Swan Tours in the Central Valley

Celebrate the bird migration on the Pacific Flyway this fall and winter! The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) offers popular, free swan tours on select Saturdays, November through January.

Held in partnership with Mathews Rice Operation, the tours transverse flooded rice fields north of Marysville. This area boasts one of the largest overwintering populations of Tundra Swans in the Central Valley, as well as abundant geese, ducks, shorebirds and raptors. To register, please email genelle.treaster@wildlife.ca.gov.



Volunteer Opportunity

If you have time in the next two months to help the birds of Clear Lake, Robert Patton, lead volunteer of the fishing line collection bins (located at boat ramps around the lake) will be unable to collect used fishing line for that time.

Redbud Audubon needs volunteers to check the bins and collect fishing line. Let us know if you could visit a boat ramp or two in the next couple of months and we will share the locations available and the procedure. Call (707) 805-9410 or email: redbud.audubon@gmail.com and leave a message. Someone will get back to you.

Legislative support needed!

Some of our members who are also members of National Audubon may receive email from National Audubon 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.

***Welcome new and returning members:
Sheila Bening, Lower Lake; and Steven W. Ellis, Lower Lake***

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.

Redbud Audubon Society is planning its 49th Annual Christmas Bird Count set for Dec. 16

The Redbud Audubon Society will conduct its 49th annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on Saturday, Dec. 16, 2023. The CBC is a traditional project of Audubon societies around the country.

Previous participants have been sent information about meeting times and places by 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 to reserve your spot or to ask about participating in a smaller group within the count circle. You can also call Redbud Audubon at (707) 805-9410 and leave a message. Someone will return your call.

Newcomers are highly urged to join this effort. If you are new to Lake County and would like to meet people with similar interests, join us on count day! Redbud Audubon hosts a Count Dinner at Kelseyville Pizza the day of the count at 5 p.m. Participants gather for fellowship and to tally their sightings.

Previous to the bird count, on Thursday, Dec. 14 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 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

National Audubon has been holding a Christmas Bird Count for 126 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 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 trend data of Audubon’s CBC to better understand how birds and the environment are faring throughout North America.

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. 16, 2023.

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. 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.

Participants will be asked to send in their report forms by mail to Kathy and Brad Barnwell or attend the annual Count Dinner. The count dinner will be held at 5 p.m. at Kelseyville Pizza. This is the first Count Dinner held since 2019. It is a fun event where participants in the count gather, enjoy pizza and refreshments and go over the experiences of the day. The event is hosted by Redbud Audubon and all participants are welcome to attend. The Barnwells will compile the data and send it out for review and approval. You can mail your information to P.O. Box 554, Lakeport CA, 95453 or email bradleybarnwell@att.net.



Cindy Jassar and Nicola Selph joined Roberta Lyons for a field trip to the Melo Wetland Preserve.



A flock of Canada Geese was sighted in an orchard adjacent to the preserve.

Field trip to Melo Wetland Preserve allowed viewing of Land Trust acquisition

The Christmas Bird Count takes the place of a field trip in December

November's field trip for Redbud Audubon was to a Lake County Land Trust property, the Melo Wetland Preserve in the Big Valley area. It was a rainy day and only three people attended, but it was an interesting walk.

The three saw several species of sparrow, Great Blue Heron, Coots, Canada Geese and a few other species. It was a great chance to see the small preserve and a nice flat walk. The Land Trust welcomes walkers on the property but parking is limited so it is not widely publicized.

This month's field trip will be the Christmas Bird Count.



Habitat at the Melo Wetland Preserve.

2023 - 2024 Field Trip Calendar

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

December 16 – Christmas Bird Count

January 20, 2024 - Colusa and Sacramento National Wildlife Refuges

February 17, 2024 – Rodman Preserve

March 16, 2024 – TBA

April 20, 2024 – TBA

May 18, 2024 – Highland Springs

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-April 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



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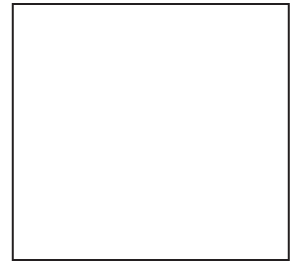
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To contact a board member:

Phone 707/805-9410

Email: redbud.audubon@gmail.com

Redbud Audubon
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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.

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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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