



The Western Grebe

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

www.redbudaudubon.org

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Learn about the iconic Western Bluebird and what you can do to help it thrive



*Mike Azevedo, Santa Clara
County Coordinator for CBRP.*

Join the Redbud Audubon Society on Thursday, Feb. 15, for a Zoom program presented by Mike Azevedo and Georgette Howington of the California Bluebird Recovery Program (CBRP). The program starts at 7 p.m. and will focus on the

iconic Western Bluebird and other cavity nesting birds common in many backyards. Viewers find out why these birds are important and beneficial to humans and what they can do to help Western Bluebirds thrive including the

(Continued on page 2)



*Georgette Howington, Assistant
Program Director for the CBRP.*

REDBUD AUDUBON

FEBRUARY MEETING

Thursday, February 15, 7 PM

Speakers: Mike Azevedo and Georgette Howington

Topic: Western Bluebirds

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:





Bluebirds visiting their nest box.

Learn how to help Bluebirds at February meeting

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proper care and placement of nest boxes. Register for the program by going to the home page of Redbud Audubon's website (www.redbudaudubon.org) and clicking on the link, or click on the link in this newsletter if you receive it by email.

The Western Bluebird is one of everyone's favorite bird species, featured in Disney movies and modern culture. Back in 1971, Western Bluebirds were living on land owned by a man named Don Yoder. Don was building a house that required trees to be removed. Sadly, the trees contained bluebird nests. That just didn't seem fair to Don – he was getting a brand new home, but the bluebirds were left with nothing.

Don took action and created The California Bluebird Recovery Program to promote the use of nest boxes for bluebirds and other cavity nesting species. The CBRP has become a well-known and widespread organization offering sound advice and tracking important data on the status of Bluebirds and other cavity nesters.

Georgette Howington is a Life Member of California Garden Clubs, a certified Horticulturist and UC Davis Naturalist of the Mt. Diablo Region. Her affiliations as a conservationist in the San Francisco Bay Area community for over 30 years include member-

ship in Mt. Diablo Audubon Society and the California Bluebird Recovery Program (www.cbrp.org) among others.

Georgette is State Assistant Program Director of CBRP and has been a nest box monitor for 25 nesting seasons. Her specialized niche is the study and conservation of cavity nesters and their associated habitats...

Mike Azevedo has been the County Coordinator for Santa Clara County with the California Bluebird Recovery Program since 2009. He has been a Science Camp naturalist, park ranger and merit badge counselor for nature related merit badges for years. Mike is compiler of the San Jose Audubon Christmas Bird Count and has worked with Santa Clara Audubon Society closely since becoming involved. Mike is working with Sequoia Audubon Society on a project to save the Western Purple Martin, a species of special concern that is battling habitat loss, deadly competition with the introduced European starling and food source crash due to the rampant use of neonicotinoid pesticides.

Together with Georgette Howington, Mike is an editor of the CBRP Facebook Page and is currently working on books and videos encouraging the use of native plants and nest boxes and habitat improvement in general.

President's Message

by Donna
Mackiewicz



Donna Mackiewicz

Currently, Bonnie juggles a three-day workweek managing memberships at her local Tower Theatre with weekly volunteer shifts at St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry and the responsibility of overseeing East Cascade Audubon Society memberships. All this while managing Redbud Audubon's webpage—truly a remarkable feat!

Amidst her commitments, Bonnie still finds time to immerse herself in Oregon's natural beauty, enjoying picturesque hikes along the nearby Deschutes River.

"I am truly grateful to have such fond memories of Lake County and the friends I have met through Redbud Audubon and treks through Anderson Marsh," Bonnie stated.

This month, I want to shine a spotlight on an invaluable volunteer whose contributions might go unnoticed - Bonnie Thompson. Despite relocating out of state in 2017, Bonnie remains a steadfast presence, providing monthly updates as our dedicated webmaster.

Bonnie joined our chapter a decade ago, leaving her mark through various roles such as board secretary and co-president. Her commitment has extended from crafting the President's Message for our newsletter to organizing speakers, volunteering at Calpine's Earth Day and the Pear Festival outreach booths, and collaborating closely with other volunteers during Heron Days.

Additionally, she played a crucial role in setting up Member Planet for payments in 2016 and acquired the skills to manage our website using WordPress.



*Bonnie Thompson -
an outstanding volunteer
amongst the many
dedicated members of
Redbud Audubon*

2024 Great Backyard Bird Count is coming soon!

Calling all community scientists! Feb, 16, 2024 marks the commencement of the 27th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC).

Whether you're a budding birdwatcher or a seasoned bird-count enthusiast, your identification skills can play a crucial role in helping scientists protect birds and their habitats.

To kick off the event, you can join a special webinar all about participating in the GBBC on Thursday, Feb. 13. Visit <https://www.birdcount.org/> to register.

Don't miss this opportunity to contribute to the well-being of our feathered friends and the places they call home.

Let's flock together for a meaningful and impactful bird-counting experience!

Volunteer opportunity



(Above) Redbud Audubon Society has placed fishing line collection bins near boat ramps all around Clear Lake. These bins need to be cleaned out on a regular basis. Volunteers for this job include Richard and Donna Mackiewicz who are pictured here at one of the bins at a resort in Soda Bay.



Volunteers are still needed to help monitor and clean out the fishing line bins that have been placed at all of the major boat ramps all around Clear Lake. Fishing line is a deadly hazard for the many types of water fowl that frequent Clear Lake. Here Donna and Richard Mackiewicz are cleaning a bin at Clear Lake State Park. If you would like to volunteer for this job in an area near you, please email Redbud Audubon at redbud.audubon@gmail.com or call (707) 805-9410.



Donna and Richard show off how much fishing line gets placed in some of the bins.

February field trip planned for Rodman Preserve on Feb. 17

Weather permitting Redbud Audubon's field trip on Feb. 17 will be held at the Lake County Land Trust's Rodman Preserve, 6350 Westlake Rd., Upper Lake. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Preserve's Nature Center Building on Westlake Road. Take the Nice-Lucerne Cut-off from Highway 29 and then turn left onto Westlake. It is recommended to wear water proof shoes as parts of the trail are wet.

Don't confuse the County Rodman Slough Park, which is near the bridge going over the slough with the Land Trust's Rodman Preserve. This happens often and is easy to do; just remember the Land Trust property is on Westlake, a left turn off of the Nice-Lucerne Cutoff before you get to the bridge. Of course if you are coming from the Northshore, using the Nice-Lucerne Cut-off, go over the bridge and then turn right on Westlake right before the Highway 29 on-ramp.

The walk at Rodman preserve is about an hour and a half to two hours. It is an easy walk with only two mild elevations. Expect to see songbirds, raptors, Osprey and probably herons and egrets. Bring a lunch if you want to sit on the back porch and visit with fellow birders as you enjoy the views and ambience of the Rodman Preserve.

The Rodman Preserve is owned and operated by the Lake County Land Trust a local charitable 501 (c) (3) that preserves habitat and open space in Lake County. The Rodman Preserve is a total of 234 acres made up of oak savannah, open meadows and wetlands. The Land Trust's website is www.lakecountylandtrust.org.

2024 Field Trip Calendar

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

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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To contact a board member:

Phone 707/805-9410

Email: redbud.audubon@gmail.com

Blasts from the past...



Heron Days was founded in 1995 by a core group of Audubon folks including Roberta Lyons and Susanne Scholz, with help and support from many other members. One year a spaghetti dinner was held after the event at Roberta and Harry Lyon's house. Pictured on the left are Susanne Scholz and Kate Lyons then at the head, Roberta, Harry, Marge Van Lente, and Mary Turner. Too many people to mention, but particularly Marilyn Waits, elevated Heron Days to one of the most popular events in the County. It was recently learned by Redbud Audubon that Marge Van Lente passed away at her home in Sonoma County.

Some thoughts, memories, and images from Over 30 years of activity with Redbud Audubon

By Roberta Lyons

Sometime around 1987 or 1988, I decided I wanted to get involved in a local conservation group and the Redbud Audubon Society seemed like the logical choice. Actually, I think Redbud Audubon, founded in 1976, was the only group I knew about and maybe the only conservation group here. I called Susanne Scholz, who I barely knew at the time, and told her I wanted to get involved. My first job was to take over the newsletter, a job that I have been doing ever since. That seemed a fitting activity for me since I had been involved with journalism and photography my whole

life (practically) as my parents owned the local weekly newspaper in Clearlake.

I have many fond memories of being involved with the Redbud Audubon Society. From attending the regional conferences at Asilomar, to founding Heron Days, to meeting at the Kelseyville High School library where I would appease my young daughter Kate by letting her have as much hot chocolate and sugar as she wanted. We sold bird seed as a fund raiser and sold Cobb Mt. bottled water at the Lake County Fair, too. We held field trips and held interesting programs

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The Regional Conferences at Asilomar, sponsored by National and California Audubon were great events. Representatives from all over California attended as did many National Audubon leaders. Pictured here, in 1990, are Roberta Lyons, left; Mrs. Guy Commeau, Peter Berle, then president of the National Audubon Society; Guy Commeau, President of Redbud Audubon at that time; Susanne Scholz and Jim Scholz. Guy and his wife were a French couple who lived in Clearlake for a few years and jumped right in to the Audubon Society activities. Susanne, Jim and Roberta are still active Redbud members.

Blasts from the past... Redbud memories

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and spoke out on local conservation issues.

We continue to do many of those things but times have changed. We are all getting older. Many of our steadfast group have passed away; some have moved and some have just retired. National and State Audubon are no longer the same either. There are no longer the fabulous regional conferences that were held every other year at Asilomar, and both State and National are not quite as helpful to the smaller local societies. Despite all of that, I remain committed to Audubon. Although our activities have changed we continue to be committed to the well-being of birds and wildlife and committed to steering Lake County in the direction of thoughtful development and consideration of the impact that all human activities have on the beautiful and diverse wildlife that we enjoy here.



In the "old days," Redbud Audubon rented a "booth" at the Clearlake Flea Market and sold items donated by society members. That's Roberta Lyons tending the booth, probably 1988.

Data compiled for Redbud's 2023 CBC

By Kathy Barnwell

The data for the 49th Redbud Audubon Christmas Bird Count has been compiled and reviewed, and the total species seen on Saturday, Dec. 16, 2023, increased by one (Least Sandpiper), for a total of 133. Total birds seen has been adjusted down slightly to 14,493. We also added two more count week birds, including Northern Pygmy-Owl and Brown-headed Cowbird.

The day started cold and clear, with a few clouds and the wind picking up in the afternoon. The low and high temperatures reported were 31 and 65 respectively. We had 35 participants, including 4 new volunteers. Although we had a few more participants this year, our total birding hours (74 hours) were lower than our average of 88 hours.

This year we had no high numbers of any spe-

cies, and reported 10 low count species, including Wood Duck, California Quail, California Scrub-Jay, American Crow, Oak Titmouse, Bushtit, Dark-eyed Junco, Golden-crowned Sparrow, California Towhee, and Spotted Towhee. These are all fairly common birds, and it is concerning that their counts were so low this year. Let's hope the numbers get back to normal next year.

We truly appreciate all the participants and their support and efforts in making the bird count as accurate and complete as possible. Please join us next year for the 125th Annual Christmas Bird Count, and Redbud's 50th count! A survey of group leaders showed that most participants prefer December 14th instead of December 21st for this year's 2024 count. Please mark your calendars and we will confirm the date in the Fall.

	SPECIES	TOTAL	Barnwell, B. - #5	Denise-#5	Donna - #6 & #8	Kim & Olga-#1	Bridges, B. - #1 & #2	Lyons, R. #1	Karen MacDougall-#5	Hecomovich, D-#2 & #3	Scholz, S. - #4	Woodward, D. - #6	Hayes, F-Borax Lake	Hayes, F. - #7 & 8	White, J.
1	Greater White-fronted Goose	9												9	
2	Cackling Goose	16										6		10	
3	Canada Goose	308	22		4				60	27		88		32	75
4	Wood Duck	2			2										
5	Gadwall	9										9			
6	American Wigeon	15													15
7	Mallard	424	53	3	60	7	5	3	20		30	54		134	55
8	Northern Shoveler	98										96	2		
9	Green-winged Teal	21	2		5							1	13		
10	Ring-necked Duck	134								7		121			6
11	Greater Scaup	3										3			
12	Lesser Scaup	2		1								1			
	Scaup Sp	0													
13	Bufflehead	174	10	7	6		1			2	11	98	2	10	27
14	Common Goldeneye	21				10	1					7		2	1

See more tallies next page

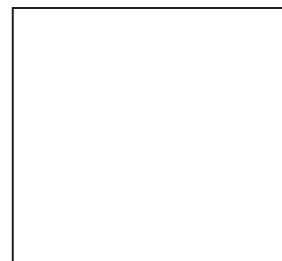
15	Hooded Merganser	29	2		8				2			14			3
16	Common Merganser	166		12								61	1	20	72
17	Red-breasted Merganser	1										1			
18	Ruddy Duck	64			1							57	4	1	1
19	Mountain Quail	1													1
20	California Quail	79	26		7		10		6	22		1		3	4
21	Ring-necked Pheasant	1			1										
22	Wild Turkey	77	9							9	13	44			2
23	Common Loon	2										1		1	
24	Pied-billed Grebe	87	20	1	10	4	12	3	1			7		13	16
25	Horned Grebe	18												18	
26	Eared Grebe	102	4	4		19	14					5		24	32
27	Western Grebe	219	2	8			4					16		124	65
28	Clark's Grebe	16										6		2	8
	Aechmophorus sp.	1593										623		970	
29	Double-cr Cormorant	1281	26	15	5	8	11		124			383		624	85
30	American White Pelican	220	30	15		18		5	24			83		20	25
31	Great Blue Heron	30	7	1	3		2		2			5		6	4
32	Great Egret	69	4	1	3		3					51		5	2
33	Snowy Egret	10							2			5		2	1
34	Green Heron	1			1										
35	Black-cr Night Heron	8	3									4		1	
36	Turkey Vulture	101	25		7	3	4		1	9	6	16	1	17	12
37	Osprey	2										1		1	
38	White-tailed Kite	4			1							3			
39	Northern Harrier	2			1							1			
40	Sharp-shinned Hawk	3												2	1
41	Cooper's Hawk	1			1										
42	Bald Eagle	2										1			1
43	Red-shouldered Hawk	8	2	1	2		1			1				1	
44	Red-tailed Hawk	25			2		1		2	3	2	4		3	8
45	Ferruginous Hawk	1										1			
	Buteo Sp.	0													
46	Virginia Rail	2	2												
47	Sora	4	2	2											
48	American Coot	706	110	100	33	12	24	27	61			89		135	115
49	Killdeer	55			7				1		6	10	6	10	15
50	Spotted Sandpiper	1	1												
51	Least Sandpiper	1											1		
52	Wilson's Snipe	2	1												1
53	Bonaparte's Gull	90	15												75
54	Short-billed Gull (Mew Gull)	1													1
55	Ring-billed Gull	32												28	4

See more tallies next page

56	California Gull	1409										6		1203	200
57	Herring Gull	705										1		700	4
58	Iceland Gull=Thayers	3												2	1
59	Glaucous-winged Gull	8												8	
	Gull sp.	142	2		44	1						95			
60	Rock Pigeon	127												107	20
61	Band-tailed Pigeon	25			10		15								
62	Eurasian Collared Dove	42	13		2				2		1	8		14	2
63	Mourning Dove	82			13			1	2	5	1	51		3	6
64	Barn Owl	1												1	
65	Western Screech Owl	2										1			1
66	Great Horned Owl	5			3									1	1
	Northern Pygmy-Owl	cw												cw	
67	Northern Saw-whet Owl	1													1
68	Anna's Hummingbird	19			3	4		2	2		2	2		2	2
69	Belted Kingfisher	11	3	1	1		1		1			1		1	2
70	Lewis's Woodpecker	1	1												
71	Acorn Woodpecker	260	67		48	1	3		8	28	53	14		13	25
72	Red-breasted Sapsucker	2					2								
73	Nuttall's Woodpecker	28	7		2	1				5		4		8	1
74	Downy Woodpecker	5	2			1						1			1
75	Northern Flicker	46	9		4		3		2	6	5	6		7	4
76	Pileated Woodpecker	1								1					
77	American Kestrel	12		1	1		1			1	3	3	1		1
	Merlin	cw	cw												
78	Peregrine Falcon	3										1			2
79	Black Phoebe	49	9	3	4	2	1		4	2	1	10	2	5	6
80	Say's Phoebe	4			1							2			1
81	Hutton's Vireo	1				1									
82	Steller's Jay	9	1		2		2			3					1
83	California Scrub-Jay	110	23	4	7	7	3	1	7	13	8	9		13	15
84	American Crow	126	33	3	2	1	2	2	2	2	11	28		28	12
85	Common Raven	192	9	10	83	1	5			12	12	13		15	32
	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	cw	cw												
86	Oak Titmouse	47	2		5	2		2	7	10	2	8		7	2
87	Bushtit	32	20		4				6						2
88	Red-breasted Nuthatch	6				1		2	2		1				
89	White-breasted Nuthatch	36	9		2		1	2	1	5	1	6		3	6
90	Pygmy Nuthatch	5								5					
91	Brown Creeper	1			1										
92	Marsh Wren	2			1									1	
93	Bewick's Wren	9	2		1			1				1	1	3	
94	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	4			1	1								1	1
95	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	42	11		3			1	3	5	1	4		10	4

96	Wrentit	15				1				1	1			2	10
97	Western Bluebird	77	8		7		3	4	2	11	15	4		7	16
98	Hermit Thrush	3							1			1		1	
99	American Robin	2181	32		762		4			58	1087	21		32	185
100	Varied Thrush	1								1					
101	California Thrasher	6								1				2	3
102	Northern Mockingbird	13					1		1		1	3		5	2
103	European Starling	347	5		15				34		16	112		40	125
104	American Pipit	4											4		
105	Cedar Waxwing	29								5		6		6	12
106	Phainopepla	2												2	
107	Orange-crowned Warbler	1												1	
108	Yellow-rumped (form ?)	68	7	6		2			2		4	11		28	8
	Yellow-rumped (Myrtle)	0													
	Yellow-rumped(Audubon's)	6			2			4							
	Black-thr Gray Warbler	cw												cw	
109	Townsend's Warbler	2								2					
110	Lark Sparrow	38									10	28			
111	Fox Sparrow	5		1										1	3
112	Dark-eyed Junco - OR	128	1		30		7	6	15	50	4				15
113	White-crowned Sparrow	221	7		14			1	5	2	3	116		48	25
114	Golden-crowned Sparrow	111	23		13	1		5	8	21	9	13		3	15
115	White-throated Sparrow	1				1									
116	Bell's Sparrow	2												1	1
117	Savannah Sparrow	14			1							13			
118	Song Sparrow	13			2	1						1		8	1
119	Lincoln's Sparrow	1			1										
	Swamp Sparrow	cw												cw	
120	California Towhee	53	22		3	1	2	1	3	2	3	2		6	8
121	Rufous-crowned Sparrow	6							5					1	
122	Spotted Towhee	30	5		11	1		1		5				3	4
123	Red-winged Blackbird	184	2		14					60	50	21		12	25
124	Western Meadowlark	59			16							9		20	14
125	Brewer's Blackbird	491	15							6	150	63		202	55
126	Great-tailed Grackle	8												8	
	Brown-headed Cowbird	cw												cw	
127	Hooded Oriole	1				1									
	Blackbird Sp.	17							17						
128	House Finch	42	3		3			2	7		4	6		5	12
129	Purple Finch	1								1					
130	Pine Siskin	13							3			8		2	
131	Lesser Goldfinch	102		5	5			2		19	1	18		42	10
132	American Goldfinch	82									6	62		4	10
133	House Sparrow	148			5		1				6	28		88	20
	TOTAL BIRDS	14494	731	205	1322	114	150	78	458	428	1540	2798	38	4964	1668

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.

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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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