



The Western Grebe

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

www.redbudaudubon.org

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“Why birds flock” topic of April meeting



Jessica Griffiths, wildlife biologist

“Why birds flock” is the topic of the April 18, Redbud Audubon Society zoom program. The program starts at 7 p.m. and registration is achieved by going to www.redbudaudubon.org or by clicking on the link in this newsletter if you receive it via email.

You may have heard the old saying that birds of a feather flock together. But have you ever stopped to wonder why? Join Jessica Griffiths for a fascinating look at bird flocks and flocking behavior. Why do some species of birds form flocks, while others do not? Why do geese and ducks fly in a “V” formation? How do birds flying in large flocks synchronize their movements to swoop and turn together?

Learn the answers to these questions and more in this presentation, which touches on bird biology and behavior, and highlights some remarkable scientific discoveries.

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REDBUD AUDUBON

APRIL MEETING

Thursday, April 18, 7 PM

Speaker: *Jessica Griffiths*

Topic: *Why birds flock*

To register for this Zoom meeting, click link:

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

Or visit RedbudAudubon.org and click on the registration link

Or scan the following QR code:



Come to April meeting and learn why birds flock

(Continued from page 1)

Jessica Griffiths has worked as a wildlife biologist in California for 20 years, including work with condors at Ventana Wildlife Society in Big Sur. She currently works for Colorado State University's Center for Environmental Management

of Military Lands (CEMML) at Vandenberg Space Force Base, where her primary focuses are Western Snowy Plovers and Monarch butterflies.

Jessica loves sharing her passion for birds and conservation via bird walks and public talks.



Bushtits are among the many small passerines that flock.



Mergansers and White Egrets are often seen in flocks. (See photos on next page)



Clear Lake's iconic White Pelicans; a "flock" of pelicans is called a squadron or a pod.



Who doesn't enjoy seeing a flock of noisy Cedar Waxwings as they attack a toyon tree?



Flocking Snow Geese have interesting formations.

President's Message

by Donna Mackiewicz



Donna Mackiewicz

March's field trip was scheduled for rain or shine. Unfortunately, it poured so the outing was shortened. Highland Springs Reservoir highlights were a rainbow, beautiful views and of the 70 species expected to be seen, six were spotted: Western Bluebirds, Yellow-rumped Warblers and Lesser Goldfinch, Canada Goose, Red-winged Blackbirds and Double-crested Cormorants.



A beautiful rainbow at last month's field trip to Highland Springs.

Redbud Audubon to participate at Field Day in the Creek

Redbud Audubon board members will participate at the Lake County Resource Conservation District "Field Day in the Creek" at Diamond D Ranch outside Middletown on Earth Day 4/22. Approximately 130 fourth grade students from Coyote Valley, Minnie Cannon and Cobb elementary schools will participate in the interactive educational event on the banks of Putah Creek. The emphasis will be seeing, touching, and learning about the natural world and natural resource management in an outdoor setting. The students will move from one demonstration station to another over the course of two hours. In our planned activity, students will learn about the structure and function of different bird beaks and how these shapes influence the bird's ability to gather food.

Monofilament line is a hazard to birds

Did you know it's estimated that monofilament line takes 600 years to break down once discarded! The line can be a hazard to birds, especially waterfowl. That is why Redbud Audubon has placed fishing line disposal containers at different locations around the lake and also monitors and cleans them.



Monofilament collecting bin at Highland Springs.

Welcome new volunteers Cindy Jassar, Deb Sally, and David Velasquez who will be assisting Robert Patton and Richard Mackiewicz in routinely emptying the fishing line recycling bins at the boat ramp locations. Continued thanks to Big Valley Rancheria, Clear Lake Campgroup, and Clear Lake State Park fishing line collectors. And a special thank you to everyone keeping the lines out of the lake keeping our wildlife safe.

Environmental education lesson plans

Sarah Angulo, Community Education and Outreach Specialist, Center for Community and Citizen Science presented two days of workshops on new environmental education lesson plans.

If you know of a homeschool group or group of young friends interested in a program, please let us know, by either calling Redbud Audubon at 707-805-9410 or emailing redbud.audubon@gmail.com.

"In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks." John Muir

Don't miss the April 20 field trip to Six Sigma Winery

The Redbud Audubon Society is hosting its April 20 field trip at the Six Sigma Ranch and Winery in eastern Lake County. The walk will be led by experienced Redbud Audubon birders and promises to be a great day.

Six Sigma has numerous trails and areas that are great to view both resident and migrating passerines. The terrain includes oak woodlands and chaparral and some riparian areas. This is also the time of year for wildflowers, so that could be an extra treat.

Wear sturdy walking shoes and bring water. The group is invited to lunch on the grounds. The winery will be open for its usual wine tasting offerings and lunch or snacks are also available.

The address is 13372 Spruce Grove Road. The website warns to be careful not to search for "Six Sigma Ranch," for directions because some devices send unsuspecting travelers to the locked service gate on Morgan Valley Road, so it is recommended to search the address.

The field trip will start at 9 a.m. from the winery. Six Sigma is about a 20 minute drive from Lower Lake, take Highway 29 south turning on Spruce Grove Road and continuing until the signs for the winery. Hope to see you there! Also, it would be great if you can RSVP by calling the Redbud Audubon number: 707-805-9410 and leave a message.



2024 Field Trip Calendar

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

**April 20, 2024 – Six Sigma
May 18, 2024 – TBA**

Details for each field trip will be published in the preceding newsletter, including directions and start time if different from 9 a.m. The May field trip has 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!



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.

Slate of officers presented for 2024-25

This year's Nominating Committee for Redbud Audubon, Darlene Hecomovich and Marilyn Waits, has presented a slate of officers for 2024-25.

President: Donna Mackiewicz
Vice-President: Roberta Lyons
Treasurer: Nicola Selph
Secretary: Katherine Lindsley

Officers will be voted on during this month's Zoom meeting, after nominations from the floor have been requested. Installation will occur at the May 16 annual picnic.

Welcome new and returning members

Welcome new and returning members: Thomas J. Moore, Yountville; Homer Hillebrand, Clearlake Oaks; Anita Benzing, Kelseyville; Jack Elizares, Kelseyville; Katy Sommers, Lakeport; Kathleen Jansen, Lakeport; and KC Patrick, Lower Lake.

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.



REDBUD AUDUBON BOARD OF DIRECTORS



OFFICERS

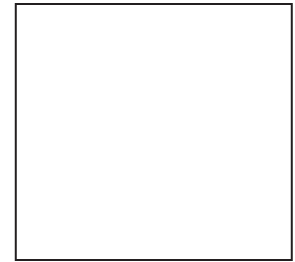
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Vice President: Roberta Lyons
Treasurer: Nicola Selph
Secretary: Katherine Lindsley
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**To contact a board member:
Phone 707/805-9410
Email: redbud.audubon@gmail.com**

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 _____

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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
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