



The Western Grebe

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

www.redbudaudubon.org

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Bats will be the focus of October's Redbud Audubon program meeting

The Redbud Audubon Society is pleased to announce that Rachael Long will be guest presenter at its Thursday Oct. 17, monthly program meeting. Rachael's topic is "The Benefits of Bats: Nature's Pest Control." The program starts at 7 p.m. and registration can be achieved by clicking on the link in this newsletter or going to www.redbudaudubon.org and clicking on the registration link. The Zoom link for the program will be sent the day of the program.

Rachael Long served as the UC Cooperative Extension IPM

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Rachael Long will explore the world of bats with viewers on the Oct. 17 Audubon Zoom program.

REDBUD AUDUBON

OCTOBER MEETING

Thursday, October 17, 7 pm

*Speaker: Rachael Long Topic: The Benefit of
Bats: Nature's Pest Control*

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:





Rachel Long, getting ready to go to work.

Learn how bats benefit farms at October meeting

(Continued from page 1)

Advisor in the Sacramento Valley for 32 years. Her work led to the publication of numerous manuals, including those on dry beans, alfalfa, sunflower, onion seed, and songbirds, bats, and owls. She also worked on ways to protect surface water quality from pesticides, leading to the adoption of various practices that improve water quality, including cover crops and vegetated filter strips.

She also pioneered work on hedgerows, showcasing that flowering plants on field edges attract bees and natural enemies; these in turn move into adjacent crops for better pollination and pest control services, leading to enhanced yields and reduced pesticide use.

Her work on bats revealed that bats control pests, with their voracious appetite for insects, leading growers to install bat houses on their farms to attract colonies of bats. This is a win for bats and farmers in that bats get a home and farmers get free pest control services. Rachael also writes children's chapter books. Her Black Rock Desert Trilogy focuses on bats and how good they are through a high adventure story. Her newest book, *See You Later, Alligator* is a new series that focuses on wildlife and wildlife conservation. Rachael is a graduate of UC Berkeley and UC Davis, lives on a farm near Woodland, and was the recipient the UC Sustainable Ag leadership award in 2018 and the Agronomy Society of America award in 2024. She currently has emeritus status with the University of California.

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

Nature education kits for children available from Redbud

Redbud Audubon proudly announces we have purchased two hands-on education resources to share with Lake County educators. The materials are available to schools, home school groups, and clubs at no charge for a two-week period.

The first trunk of materials is a Mammal Kit with pelts and skulls of various wildlife animals. The second kit, just in time for Halloween, is a Bat Bag that includes a bat skeleton and books about bats donated by author and bat expert Rachel Freeman Long. She is the speaker for our October 17 Zoom meeting. Both kits contain posters and activities that will peak children's curiosity and interest in learning more about nature. Any teacher or home school parent who would like to use one or both of the kits can email redbud.audubon@gmail.com for more information.



Audubon California urges voting for Proposition 4, the Climate Bond

Audubon California strongly supports voting Yes on Prop 4 in the November 5th election. This Climate Bond will be the largest investment in climate resilience in California history. Proposition 4 is particularly important because it allocates at least 40% of its funding to underserved and climate-vulnerable communities, many of which have not received funding in past bond efforts. Programs and projects funded through Proposition 4 will help ensure a sustainable and biodiverse future for birds and communities throughout the state.

Volunteer opportunities: Looking for something to do this fall and winter? Join us...

A Social Media volunteer is needed to regularly update posts on Redbud Audubon's Facebook page.

We need several more people to help Robert Patton and his team collect fishing line for recycling at bins around the lake.

Christmas Bird Count is December 14, and teams can always use new participants. Even if you are new to birdwatching your attendance is valuable and it's a fun citizen science project.

Kelseyville Pear Festival

Redbud chapter staffed an Audubon exhibit booth at the annual Kelseyville Pear Festival on September 28. Many thanks to Cindy Jassar, Richard Mackiewicz, Margaux Kambara, Tom Lajcik, Nicola Selph, and Susanne Scholz for volunteering to chat with festival visitors, answer questions about local birds, and sell Redbud t-shirts and books. Young visitors enjoyed receiving a Bee-A-Buddy comic book, an owl mask template, and coloring pages.

We still have large t-shirts for sale for \$15.00 with our grebe logo and name on the front side and the slogan "For the Birds" on the back. Available colors are yellow, blue, red, purple, and green. If you would like to purchase one, email the chapter (see our gmail address above) and let us know.

Redbud also informed visitors about the importance of not buying or bringing in firewood from outside the county because of the damage the Mediterranean Oak Borer Beetle is doing in Lake County. The county's many varieties of oak trees provide critical habitat for birds and insects.

Serpentine is a unique feature Of Lake County's wildlands

By Margaux Kambara

Serpentine and the plants that live on serpentine soils are remarkable. Despite being in a harsh environment and containing naturally occurring asbestos and heavy metals, serpentine soils are considered a sensitive habitat. Its flora is fragile, grows in miniature and yet is hardy enough to survive where most plants cannot. This resilience reminds one of Lake County residents, who have the fortitude to live in a rural county with high wildfire risk.

Serpentine is the state rock of California. Because Serpentine's color ranges from green to gray, it is sometimes confused with jade. However, unlike jade which can be harder than steel, serpentine is a soft rock similar to soapstone. It has a waxy sheen and often has white veins of chrysolite.

In California, serpentine soils are relatively uncommon – only about two percent of the state's soils are serpentine. This metamorphic rock is found in central and northern California: in the Coast Ranges, the Klamath Mountains, and in the Sierra Nevada foothills. Despite its overall rarity in California, serpentine is abundant in Lake County. There are serpentine outcrops in Highland Springs Recreation Area (HSRA), on the site of Lake County's new courthouse and throughout the Mayacama mountain ranges on the western side of the county.

Serpentine outcrops and soils tend to have little vegetation and look desolate. The chemistry of the serpentine, rich in heavy metals, makes it a harsh environment and many plants cannot tolerate the soils. However, some plants have evolved and adapted to survive on serpentine. Of the plants that can tolerate serpentine soils many are often special status species: rare, endangered or threatened that have both State and Federal protections.

One of the drawbacks of serpentine is that it is a source of Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA). Serpentine breaks and pulverizes easily, and the NOA found in serpentine dust poses health concerns—more so than whole serpentine rocks and undisturbed serpentine soil. The dust can be inhaled or swal-

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Epipactis gigantea (stream orchids).
Photo by Kim Riley

Highland Farms granted use permit without required biological studies

Help support serpentine plants at October 22 appeal hearing

(Continued from page 4)

lowed and can remain in the abdominal cavity; the dust may cause cancer or other diseases. For this reason, there are strict, County, State and Federal regulations that must be followed during construction around serpentine soils and rocks as well as sealing road surfaces to prevent vehicular traffic from spreading serpentine dust.

In May 2024, Lake County Planning Commission approved a major use permit for a project on the border of Highland Springs Reservoir. Because the permittee denied the presence of serpentine, the permit does not require mitigation measures for the special status species growing in the serpentine soils that will be damaged or destroyed by the project's development, nor does it address the risk of serpentine dust to workers and people enjoying the park. Also, although required by State and Federal law, biological studies of the wetland on the project parcels were not completed, yet the permit was granted.

Redbud Audubon Society supports the appeal of the major use permit granted to Highland Farms. For a fact sheet on the appeal and how you can support the appeal, send an email to Thrive95453@outlook.com. The appeal hearing is Tuesday, Oct. 22 during the Board of Supervisors meeting at the Lake County Courthouse. The meeting starts at 9 a.m.



Western Ninebark. Photo by Kim Riley



Wavy Leaf Mountain Lilac Ceanothus foliosus. Photo by Kim Riley

Images from September field trip



Last month's field trip was to Kuulanapo Preserve in Lakeport. Dave Woodward discussing sightings with Brad and Kathy Barnwell.



Audubon's Kuulanapo preserve field trip

The September field trip to the Lake County's Land Trust's Kuulanapo preserve was a fun day. There were 10 people enjoying a warm morning at the preserve. Highlights were the incoming sparrows including Savannah, Song, and Lincoln. Western Meadowlarks were seen, Yellow-rumped Warblers, a White-tailed Kite, Barn Swallow, Western Tanager, Wood Ducks, Pied-billed Grebes and about 40 Western and Clark's Grebes.

Many thanks to Donna Mackiewicz, field trip leader and Dave Woodward who attended and also pointed out some interesting insects like the Red Cricket Hunter Wasp and numerous butterflies.

Some interesting insects were also noted.

September field trip...continued



Wood Ducks were spotted along the east channel at the preserve.

REDBUD AUDUBON BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Welcome new and returning members

Welcome to our newest National Audubon members and those renewing through Member Planet: Cissy Brazil, John Grice, Elanor Neumuth, Corrine Ezre, Sharon Fuller, Judith Grindle, Teresa Andrea, JoAnn Andresen and Noralee McKnight.

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.

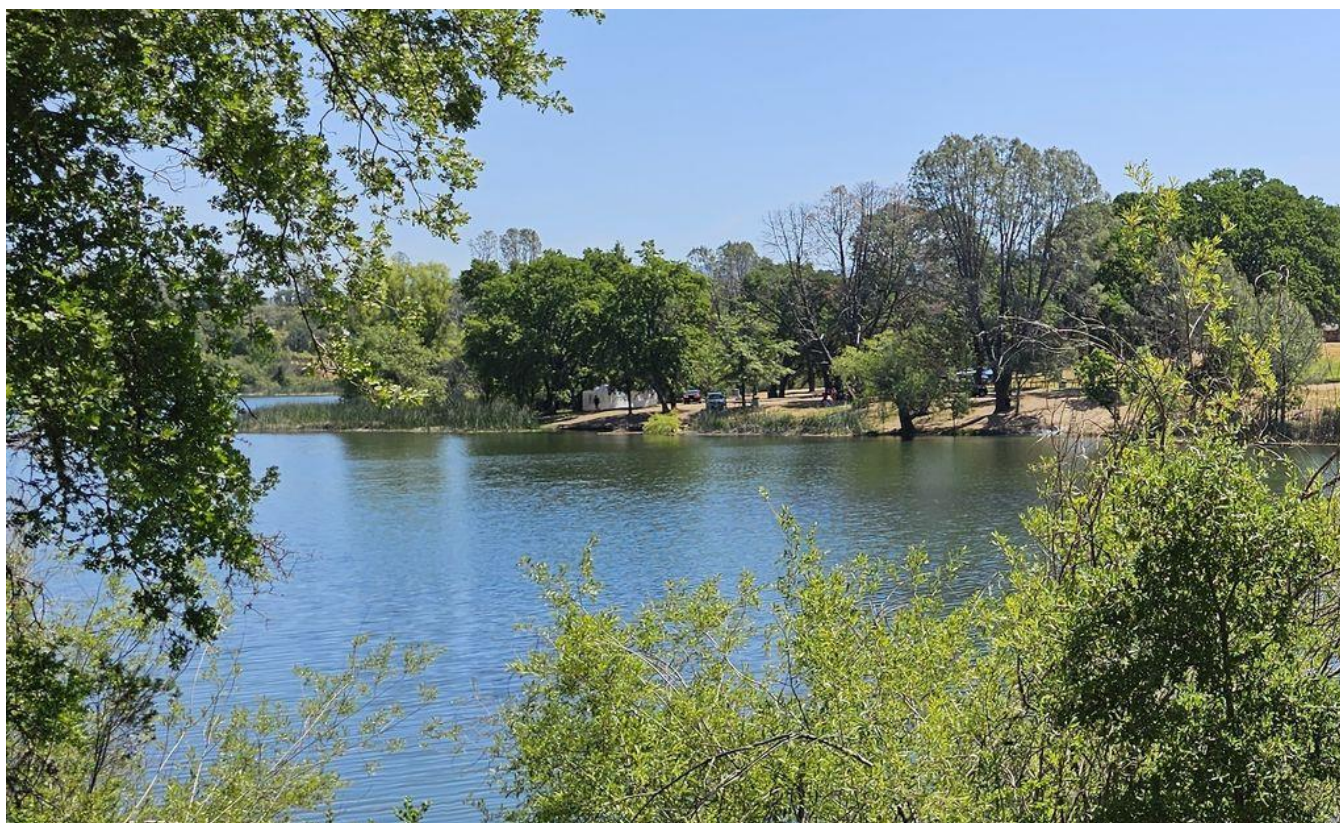
Even if you still prefer to receive the mailed version of the "Grebe", we would like to have your email for our records. Once in a while, we send out emails to our members about important events or bird sightings that may be of interest. You are also welcome to email us with any information that you 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.

So 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.



	2023-24 Chapter Financial Report	
	Redbud Audubon Society, Inc	
	July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024	
Revenues	Audubon Membership Revenue	\$2,149
	Contributions	365
	Grant – Audubon in Action	13,550
	Interest	<u>1</u>
	Total income	\$16,065
	Cost of Goods Sold	<u>\$56</u>
	Total Revenue	\$16,009
Expenditures	Administration	\$2,621
	Educational Programs & Events	1,753
	Newsletter Printing/Mailing	2,630
	Conservation	233
	Marketing Outreach	396
	Storage & PO Box rental	<u>1,498</u>
	Total Expenditures	\$9,131
	Net Income in Operating Funds	\$6,878
	Beginning Retained Earnings 6/30/23	\$43,177
	Net Income 2023-2024	6,878
	Ending Retained Earnings 6/30/24	\$50,055
Assets	Cash & Equivalents (Checking, Savings, etc)	\$49,835
	Inventory Held for Sale	684
	Total Assets	\$50,519
Liabilities	Accounts Payable	464
	Total Liabilities	\$464
Funds	Reserved (Osprey Fund)	5,493
	Reserved (Audubon in Action)	13,550
	Unreserved (Not Committed)	30,792
	Total Fund Balances	\$49,835



Expect to see migrating water fowl at the reservoir at Highland Springs.

Audubon field trip planned for Highland Springs Reservoir on Saturday, Oct. 19

Join friends and other birders on Saturday, Oct. 19 for a field trip to Highland Springs Reservoir. Meet at the main parking area near the lake. The reservoir is located at 3600 East Highland Springs Rd. Lakeport.

The Highland Springs Reservoir is managed by the County of Lake Water Resources Department and is a beautiful area to visit featuring oak forests, chaparral and of course, the reservoir. We should be seeing some migrating water fowl and hopefully some warblers as well.

Meet at 9 a.m. and enjoy a relaxed morning with friends.



Meet us at 9 a.m. for a peaceful morning surrounded by nature's wonders. Enjoy the oak forests, chaparral, and the reservoir while spotting migrating waterfowl and warblers. Perfect for a day out with friends!

2024-2025 Field Trip Calendar

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

October 19 - Highland Springs Reservoir

November 23 – Clear Lake State Park

December 14 - Christmas Bird Count

January 18 – 2025 – National Wildlife Refuges –
Colusa and Sacramento

February – 22 – Reclamation Area, Upper Lake

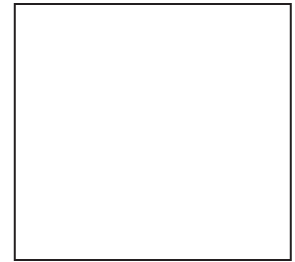
March – 22 – Clark’s Island and more Clearlake
Oaks

April – 19 – Cache Creek’s Redbud Trail, flats only

May – 15 – Annual evening picnic at Lakeside
County Park

Details for each field trip will be published in the preceding newsletter, including directions and start time if different from 9 a.m. Field trips are weather dependent and will be cancelled if there is severe weather or weather issues make accessibility difficult. Put these dates on your calendar and plan for a fun day of birding with friends!

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 _____

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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