



The Western Grebe

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

www.redbudaudubon.org

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Bird Identification is topic of upcoming Redbud Audubon Zoom program

The Redbud Audubon Society will present a comprehensive Bird Identification program on Thursday, December 12, 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 50th 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

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If we are lucky, a Bald Eagle will be seen on the upcoming Christmas Bird Count. Photo by Brad Barnwell

PLEASE NOTE: THIS MONTH'S MEETING IS THE SECOND THURSDAY!

REDBUD AUDUBON

DECEMBER MEETING

Thursday, December 12, 7 pm

Bird Identification Program presented by Donna Mackiewicz

To register for this Zoom meeting, click link:

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

Or visit RedbudAudubon.org and click on the registration link

Or scan the following QR code:



President's Message

by Donna Mackiewicz



Donna Mackiewicz

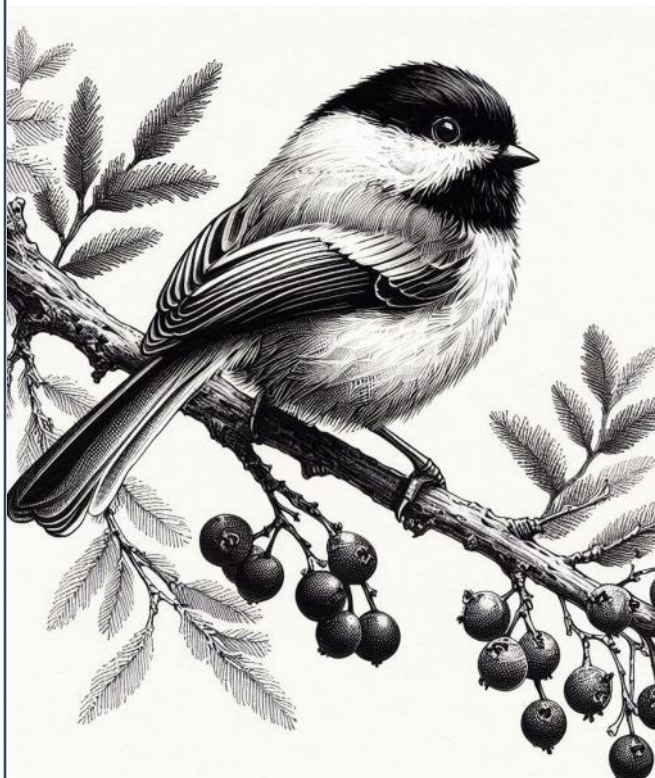
Happy holidays from Redbud Audubon's volunteers and Board of Directors.

We are thankful to all the voters supporting climate action by voting "Yes" on Prop 4 for

birds, people, and communities.

We hope you will join us for the Christmas Bird Count on December 14 and our General Meeting, December 12, for a Lake County Bird Identification Zoom. Information on both events can be found here and on the website.

Until next year, peace and enjoy the winter migrations!



Brush up on bird ID skills for upcoming Christmas Bird Count

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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, December 14.

To register for the program, click on the registration link in this newsletter (if you receive it by email) or on the homepage at www.redbudaudubon.org. The link will be sent on the day of the presentation.

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, December 14, 2024.

Anyone interested in joining us is invited to join either the Clear Lake State Park group or the Anderson Marsh State Historic Park group. All participants joining one of these groups are asked to reserve their spots; which can be done by calling Kathy or Brad Barnwell at (707) 263-1283, leave a message with your contact information, or email them at bradleybarnwell@att.net. "Please let us know if you have any friends or family who would like to join us," Kathy Barnwell urged.

CBC leaders 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 on Dec. 14, 2024 at 5 p.m. at a pizza restaurant to be announced in early December. It is a fun event where participants in the count gather, enjoy pizza and refreshments and go over the results 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 to the leaders for review and approval. They can mail their information to P.O. Box 554, Lakeport CA, 95453 or email bradleybarnwell@att.net.



Great Egrets are usually seen on Clear Lake. Photo by Roberta Lyons

Redbud Audubon Society is planning its 50th Annual Christmas Bird Count set for Dec. 14

The Redbud Audubon Society will conduct its 50th annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on Saturday, Dec. 14, 2024. The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is a traditional project of Audubon societies around the country.

Previous participants have been sent information about meeting times and places by the 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!

Previous to the bird count, on Thursday, Dec. 12 starting at 7 p.m. Donna Mackiewicz will host a Zoom Bird Identification program. Just click on the link in this newsletter (if you receive it online) 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 125 years. The official count period starts December 14 and ends January 5. 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 pos-

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*Pileated Woodpecker could be seen on the count.
Photo by Dave Woodward*



*A Sharp-shinned Hawk could be a good sighting.
Photo by Dave Woodward*

Join Redbud Audubon for 50th anniversary Christmas Bird Count

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sible 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 is 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 remarkable trend data of Audubon's CBC to better understand how birds and the environment are faring throughout North America – and what needs to be done to protect them. Data from Audubon's signature Citizen Science program are at the heart of numerous peer-reviewed scientific studies.



A Turkey Vulture in a "heraldic pose." See more photos next page.

Birds to watch for on the Christmas Bird Count



Great Blue Heron. Photo by Brad Barnwell



Red-breasted Nuthatch are usually found in some parts of the county. Photo by Brad Barnwell



*Juvenile Bald Eagle perched on Clear Lake.
Photo by Roberta Lyons*



*Cedar Waxwings can often be seen.
Photo by Roberta Lyons*

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Phone 707/805-9410

Email: redbud.audubon@gmail.com

Join us on Jan. 18 to the NWR for great birding!

Redbud Audubon will hold its annual field trip to the National Wildlife Refuges in the Sacramento Valley. We usually first visit the Colusa NWR and then the Sacramento NWR. We meet at the Colusa NWR at 9 a.m. and then head to the Sacramento NWR.

This is always a fun trip and we hope you can attend. We no longer “officially,” arrange carpooling but of course you can arrange riding with friends on your own. Bring a lunch that we usually enjoy together at the Sacramento NWR, depending on the weather. This trip depends a lot on the weather, but we will try to stay in touch with everyone.

2024-2025 Field Trip Calendar

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

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!



First-winter male Townsend's Warbler. Photo credit AGAMI stock.

Field trip to Clear Lake State Park was fun

By Roberta Lyons

The Redbud Audubon field trip on Nov. 23 was fun and productive with 50 species seen by a small group: Brad and Kathy Barnwell, Roberta Lyons, Andy Carpenter and Doug Prather. Among the stand-outs were: Townsend's Warbler, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Belted Kingfisher, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglet and lots more.

It was a great day with no rain, very walkable trails and good company. Despite the recent rains, Clear Lake State Park was a good place to walk. The road was nice, of course, and the trails through the campground and along the creek were not muddy and very comfortable.

I found the outing particularly valuable as I, along with everyone else, got great views of the Townsend's Warbler. We saw several and they were very cooperative, coming in close on the trail so we got a good look even without binoculars. Many people think I'm a good birder as I have been involved with Audubon for so long. I'm not. I'm not a naturalist. I'm more in to the advocacy side of what Audubon does. The reason I am an advocate, of course, is because I do love nature, but I always jokingly say to my friends: "I love nature. I like to look at it, I just don't like to muck about in it!"

So why are these comments relevant? Because I saw a Townsend's Warbler in my yard, at my bird-bath, the day after I saw one at the State Park! If I hadn't been on that field trip, I doubt if I would have been able to identify it! Without using my new bird book. Go on Audubon field trips. They are fun and educational.



Andy Carpenter, Clear Lake State Park Interpretive aide and Brad Barnwell on November's field trip to the park.

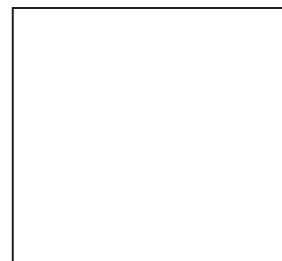


Cole Creek at the park usually yields some good birds.



Checking out the Red-breasted Sapsucker at CLSP.

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 _____

Email _____

☐ 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