



The Western Grebe

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

www.redbudaudubon.org

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Redbud Audubon members and friends from last year's end-of-year picnic.

Redbud Audubon to hold annual “end of year picnic” and officer installation – join us at Lakeside Park!

Redbud Audubon Society members and guests are welcome to attend the annual end-of-year picnic and installation of officers at Lakeside County Park on Thursday, May 15 starting at 5:30 p.m.

The picnic is a potluck. Participants are encouraged to bring reusable eating utensils for a zero-waste event but plates and plastic utensils will still be available. Please bring something to share like salad, beans, chips, or dessert. We

won't be grilling hotdogs this year as it has become too difficult for volunteers so we are hoping attendees bring some hearty dishes. RSVPs are welcome but not required. Please arrive at 5:30 p.m. Look for us down by the lake to the left of the launch ramp. We will install officers, and it is a nice way to visit with and get to know chapter members.

To RSVP, please email Redbud at: redbud.audubon@gmail.com.

REDBUD AUDUBON

**End-of-year potluck picnic
and officers' installation
Thursday, May 15, 5:30 PM**

*Join us at Lakeside County Park
on Park Drive off Soda Bay Road*

President's Message

by Donna Mackiewicz



Donna Mackiewicz

The Clearlake Oaks rookery with Double-crested Cormorants, Black-crowned Night Herons, Great Blue Herons and Great Egret is very active this year.

The lake levels are perfect for the Western and Clark's Grebes. If you see nests, please send an email to Redbud Audubon at redbud.audubon@gmail.com. This information will contribute to the Audubon in Action grant involving high school students mapping the nests. Dr. Floyd Hayes began monitoring in 2010 and this new exciting continuation of monitoring will be impactful.

Coming up May 15, you can contribute to National Audubon's Climate Watch campaign developed to research and document how species are responding to climate change as it's happening. This is another effort of "community scientists," contributing to important issues, like the grebe monitoring and more.

Twelve target species are the focus. There are species of bluebird, nuthatch, two species of goldfinches and two towhee species that Lake County call home. These species were chosen specifically because they have good models, with strong predictions for change. They are present in summer and winter, and they can be generally easily identified by volunteers.

We know that climate change will impact birds differently, depending on the season. Migratory species may be in different places at different times of year. Birds also need different resources and different habitat types during the times that they are breeding versus times they are overwintering or migrating. Climate Watch was designed to cover two different seasons. The winter survey Jan. 15 through Feb. 15, and then summer or breeding season May 15 through June 15.

If you are interested in joining Climate Watch, we would love to hear from you. You can submit your observations through eBird or the Audubon mobile app as you conduct 5-minute point counts at 12 locations. It will be an interesting and valuable volunteer opportunity.

Enjoy your May and as always, we are here if you have any questions or observations, you would like us to share. Redbud Audubon's email is: redbud.audubon@gmail.com and our phone number is (707) 805-9410.



Monitoring of Western and Clark's Grebes will be taking place during nesting season.



Climate Watch is focusing on certain species including nuthatches.



Two species of towhees live in Lake County.

Resource Conservation District's "Day in the Creek" at Middletown's Putah Creek



Redbud Audubon participates in the Resource Conservation District's (RCD) "Day in the Creek," every year. The event is at Putah Creek in Middletown and hosts classes from two elementary schools in Middletown. Pictured is Redbud's volunteer, Donna Mackiewicz talking to the students about bird sounds.



Donna Mackiewicz points out the intricacies of owl pellets and explains how owls produce them to Middletown elementary school students.



Redbud Audubon has several displays that it shares with many different groups.



Donna instructs students on the importance of our birds.

Redbud Audubon BioBlitz event



(Above, left) Redbud Audubon hosted a “BioBlitz” event at the Rodman Preserve on April 27. A BioBlitz is a short-term, intense period of biological surveying where people work together to document all the living species within a designated area. The information is then reported to the app iNaturalist and is entered into a database. Pictured is this year’s organizer, Ed Oswalt photographing a species.

(Above , right) This beautiful Brodiaea at the Rodman Preserve was added to the database.

BioBlitz at Rodman Preserve



One of the preserve's majestic Valley Oaks.



The BioBlitz group, led by Donna Mackiewicz and Ed Oswalt enjoyed the morning and afternoon at the Rodman Preserve near Upper Lake.

How to tell a Raven from a Crow

The following information was provided by National Audubon in a recent publication

You probably know that ravens are larger, the size of a Red-tailed Hawk. Ravens often travel in pairs, while crows are seen in larger groups. Also, watch the bird's tail as it flies overhead. The crow's tail feathers are basically the same length, so when the bird spreads its tail, it opens like a

fan. Ravens, however, have longer middle feathers in their tails, so their tail appears wedge-shaped when open.

Listen closely to the birds' calls. Crows give a cawing sound. But ravens produce a lower croaking sound.

Redbud Audubon 2025-26 Officers to be elected and installed

Next year's proposed slate of officers for the Redbud Audubon Society is:

President: Donna Mackiewicz
Vice-president: Roberta Lyons
Treasurer: Nicola Selph
Secretary: Cindy Jassar

Many thanks to Darlene Hecomovich for once again serving as our nominating committee. Nominations will also be taken from the floor. The election and installation will be held at the upcoming end-of-year picnic on May 15.



Raven. Image by Mike Jerrard from Pixabay.

Please provide us with your email

A number of our members have emailed us at redbud.audubon@gmail.com to opt in 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.

2025 Field Trip Calendar

May 15 – Annual evening picnic at Lakeside County Park, 5:30 PM

Welcome new members

Welcome new and returning members: Gill Abaja, Clearlake; Donna M Mackiewicz, Clearlake Oaks; Jean Murphy, Kelseyville; Joanne Swenson, Kelseyville; Ellen Karnowski, Kelseyville; and Kristina Retzliff, Upper 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.

Audubon membership choices 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.

REDBUD AUDUBON BOARD OF DIRECTORS



OFFICERS

President: Donna Mackiewicz

Vice President: Roberta Lyons

Treasurer: Nicola Selph

Secretary: Katherine Lindsley

Member-at-large: Cindy Jasser

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Bird Observations - Jerry White

Christmas Bird Count - Brad & Kathy Barnwell

Conservation - Roberta Lyons & Donna Mackiewicz

Field Trips - Donna Mackiewicz & Roberta Lyons

Historian - Pat Harmon

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Newsletter Editor - Roberta Lyons

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Newsletter Mail Distribution - Jim Scholz

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Publicity - Roberta Lyons

Webmaster - Bonnie Thompson

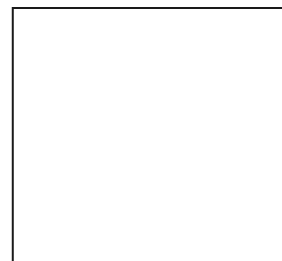
Social Media - Donna Mackiewicz

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.

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