



The Western Grebe

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

www.redbudaudubon.org

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Winds of Change: Offshore wind and the future of birds in California



Bridget Mulkerin will discuss renewable energy development at the November 17 Zoom meeting

The Redbud Audubon Society is pleased to host Bridget Mulkerin for its upcoming monthly Zoom program on Thursday, Nov. 20, starting at 7 p.m.

Bridget is the Senior Manager of Climate Policy at Audubon California, focusing on decarbonization including responsible renewable energy development as well as nature based solutions.

This program will reveal why the National Audubon Society supports *responsible* offshore

wind development and how it is being shaped right here in California.

In this presentation, Bridget will share insights into offshore wind and its relationship with birds, why the National Audubon Society supports the responsible development of offshore wind, and how it is developing in California.

Her previous experiences include two AmeriCorps terms where she supported access to parks, outdoor education, urban tree nursery maintenance, and wetland restoration, as well as a Peace Corps term in Senegal working on agroforestry and Let Girls Learn projects. From 2022-2025, Bridget worked at American Forests, where she developed the California Cone Corps program. There, she supported seed sharing initiatives, contributed to training

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REDBUD AUDUBON

NOVEMBER MEETING

Thursday, November 20, 7 pm

Topic: Offshore wind and the future of birds in California

Speaker: Bridget Mulkerin

To register for this Zoom meeting, click link:

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

Or visit RedbudAudubon.org and click on the registration link

Or scan the following QR code:



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Audubon supports responsibly sited offshore wind projects that protect birds and marine ecosystems.

National Audubon Society supports responsible development of offshore wind projects

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nearly 400 foresters in cone monitoring and collection facilitation, and worked with collaborators from NPS, CAL FIRE, USFS, BLM, Tribal communities, and the private sector to advance the pace and scale of reforestation and to increase cone collections to reduce the state's seed deficit.

Bridget holds a BA in International Studies with minors in Peace and Justice and Environmental Studies from Fairfield University, and an MA in International Environmental Policy from the Middlebury Institute.

Registration for this program can be achieved by clicking on the link in this newsletter (if you receive it by email) or by going to www.redbudaudubon.org and clicking on the registration link.

President's Message

by Donna
Mackiewicz

Celebrating hope and progress for birds, wildlife and habitats



Donna Mackiewicz

It's a joy to share as members and friends of the chapter some of the great strides made in the last month by National Audubon Society and Audubon California—events and victories that remind us why our work matters. In a time of uncertainty

for native-plants, wildlife and water-way protections, these wins help light the way forward.

- **Making migratory bird protections permanent in California**

Thanks to the steadfast work of Audubon California and supporters like you, Assembly Bill 454 was signed into law on October 6, 2025. It makes California's commitment to protecting migratory birds permanent. That means hundreds of species that move through California's habitats - songbirds, shorebirds, raptors - now have an enduring legal foundation. What a tremendous win for the Pacific Flyway, for our oak-woodlands and chaparral, and for the places we love and volunteer in.

- **Strengthening species and habitat protections**

Also signed this fall: Senate Bill 427, which extends the Habitat Conservation Fund through 2035 - ensuring continued investment in restoring and protecting wild places. And Assembly Bill 1319, which strengthens the California Endangered Species Act's ability to respond when federal protections waver.

For our local ecosystems - oak woodlands, chaparral, riparian corridors, Clear Lake tributaries - this translates into more tools and more momentum for habitat restoration, native-plant work, and species recovery. And that's exactly the kind of bedrock we need.

- **Inspiring bird photography and connection across the Americas**

On another celebratory note, the National Audubon Society's 2025 Audubon Photography Awards showcase drew thousands of entries and included two winners from California.

What all this underscores is how birds connect us - across landscapes, states, borders - and how art, science and community come together. When we pause to admire a photo of a migrating bird, we also remember the bigger story: habitat, connectivity, climate resilience. It's a reminder that our chapter's outreach - bird walks, native-plant talks, signage, youth education - matters more than ever.

Despite the challenges ahead, there is cause for optimism. The tide is turning in favor of birds and wild places - thanks to sustained advocacy, partnerships, and community engagement. As a chapter, we are part of that momentum. Every walk, every conversation, every native-plant seed we sow contributes to the story of recovery, resilience, and renewal. Would you like to become more active in our efforts? Your local chapter needs volunteers and new board members. If you want to actively participate in the activities that are protecting our local environment, join us. You can do this by emailing us at redbud.audubon@gmail.com and let us know what you would be interested in volunteering for.

Let's carry this energy forward into our local work: for the birds, for the clear-water streams, for the oak woodlands and chaparral we care deeply about.

With renewed hope and feathers flying high, Donna

Legislative support needed to help protect wildlife

Some of our members who are also members of National Audubon may receive emails 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.



Nest box monitoring is fun for kids, too.

Join Redbud Audubon's Bluebird Nest box and monitoring team

Bluebirds carry a bit of our Lake County sky on their backs—but like many secondary-cavity nesters, they've lost much of their natural nesting habitat. Nest boxes are a simple, proven way to help bluebirds and other cavity-nesting birds raise their young. Since 1994, the **California Bluebird Recovery Program (CBRP)** and local volunteers have installed and monitored thousands of boxes with terrific results.

Redbud Audubon is partnering with CBRP to expand this effort right here in Lake County, and we're looking for volunteers at every level - especially a few Bluebird Trail Coordinators.

We're recruiting Lake County Bluebird Trail Coordinators

Coordinators help:

- Identify good locations (yards, schools, farms, parks, vineyards, preserves).
- Organize box installations and simple predator guards.
- Schedule brief nest checks during the season (about once a week in spring/summer).
- Collect and submit nesting data to CBRP (we'll show you how).
- Support local box hosts and celebrate successes

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A flock of western bluebirds.

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with photos and short notes.

(If you prefer a smaller role, we also need box hosts, check-in helpers, and data entry volunteers.)

Already have a bluebird box?

Wonderful! We'd love to include your box in the Lake County network. We'll provide quick training, data sheets, and support so your observations contribute to conservation science.

Training and support

Monitoring a bluebird box is rewarding, family-friendly citizen science. Redbud Audubon provides:

- Short how-to training (in person or virtual)
- Box plans/placement tips and simple predator-guard guidance
- Data sheets and reporting tools through CBRP
- Ongoing help throughout the season

Get started

Email Redbud Audubon: redbud.audubon@gmail.com subject line: "Bluebirds – Coordinator" if you'd like to lead a small area, or "Bluebirds – Box Host/Monitor" if you have (or want) a box.

You can also connect with our CBRP partner, Georgette Howington at ghbirdscape@gmail.com for statewide resources and mentoring.

Together, we can grow a Lake County bluebird network that's good for birds—and fun for people. If you're curious at all, reach out. We'll help you take the next easy step.



Donna Mackiewicz showing children a bluebird nesting box.



Audubon's November field trip is at Boggs Lake, located below Mt. Hannah. Participants will survey forest, wetland, and riparian habitats for seasonal bird activity."

November Field Trip will be to Boggs Lake on Mt. Hannah

Redbud Audubon's November field trip on Saturday, Nov. 22 will be to Boggs Lake on Mt. Hannah. This 200-acre preserve is located at 6902 Harrington Flat Rd. Take Bottle Rock Road off of Highway 29 near Kelseyville and continue until you see Harrington Flat Rd. Turn left on Harrington Flat, then turn left into the Boggs Lake parking lot. We will meet in

the parking lot at 9 a.m.

The walk is short but slightly rugged, so wear sturdy shoes. A total of 139 species have been catalogued at the preserve, but as usual, we never know what we will see. Come along and find out!

If you have questions, email Redbud Audubon at redbud.audubon@gmail.com or call 707-805-9410.



Field trip meet-up time is 9:00 am; bring binoculars, layered clothing, water and sturdy shoes.



The November Audubon outing includes riparian zones around Bogg's Lake, offering habitat for woodpeckers, songbirds, and waterfowl.



A great time was had by all at the field trip to CLSP in October. Front row Cathy Gayner, Brad Barnwell, Roberta Lyons, Darlene Hecomovich, Kathy Barnwell, and Jeannette Knight; in back, Richard Mackiewicz, Ed Oswalt and Harry Lyons. Photo by Donna Mackiewicz.



Some discussion going on. Cathy Gayner, Donna Mackiewicz and Richard Mackiewicz.

October field trip to Clear Lake State Park was a lovely day with friends and birds

Birders attending the October field trip to Clear Lake State Park enjoyed a beautiful day with a group of friends and lots of birds. Some of the highlights were a Red-breasted Sapsucker that visited a tree trunk long enough for a good viewing. There were lots of blackbirds, both Red-breasted and Brewers, five Flickers, two Kingfishers, several Chickadees, a Wood Duck and 40 gulls.

Everyone is invited to Redbud Audubon's monthly field trips. They are always a nice outing with friendly and knowledgeable people. Join us!



A Red-breasted Sapsucker provided a nice view for the group at Clear Lake State Park in October.

2025-2026 Field Trip Calendar

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

November 22 – Boggs Demonstration Forest

December 20– Christmas Bird Count

January 17 – Sacramento and Colusa National Wildlife Refuges

February 21 – Lake County Land Trust's Rodman Preserve

March 21 – Clearlake Oaks Boat Ramp/Clark's Island/Wetlands/Rookery

April – TBA

May – Annual Picnic

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!

Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is set for Dec. 20, 2025

Redbud Audubon Society will carry out its annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on Saturday, Dec. 20. The CBC is a traditional project of Audubon societies around the country. Former participants will be sent information about meeting times and places by the count organizers, Brad and Kathy Barnwell; the public is also welcome to participate and can do so by emailing Redbud Audubon at redbud.audubon@gmail.com for more information.

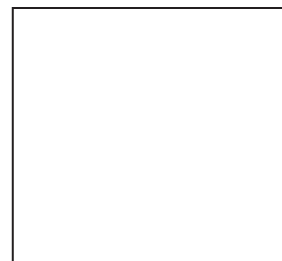
After the count, participants will meet for the count teams to report their tally. We are still determining the location and if it will be the night of the count, or the next day.

Before the bird count, on Thursday, Dec. 18, starting at 7 p.m. Donna Mackiewicz will host a Zoom Bird Identification program. This will be an extensive slide show featuring birds that are often seen on the annual count and birds that are common to Lake County. The program emphasizes the field characteristics of the common and some not-so-common birds here. The Zoom registration will be in the December Western Grebe newsletter

National Audubon has been holding a Christmas Bird Count for 124 years. The official count period usually starts around the middle of December and ends the first week of January. 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 possible within a certain period of time.

Newcomers are encouraged to join in on the bird count. You don't have to be an expert birder to participate. Besides emailing Redbud Audubon, feel free to call Brad or Kathy at (707) 263-1283 for more information.

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