

Lake County Land Trust

PO Box 1017, Lakeport, CA 95453 • (707)262-0707 • Summer/Fall 2023



Merry Jo Velasquez, Lakeport resident and member of the Lake County Land Trust board of directors, stands at the entry to the Keithly property on South Main Street in Lakeport. Merry Jo was one of the board members spearheading the acquisition of this valuable piece of wetland and upland habitat.

Keithly ranch property in Lakeport will be part of the Big Valley Wetlands project

By Merry Jo Velasquez

On November 15, the California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) approved funding for the Lake County Land Trust (LCLT) acquisition of the 86-acre Keithly property in south Lakeport. Approximately 78 acres of this land is nearshore, upland wetlands, and riparian areas. The property is adjacent to the Wright Wetland

Preserve, creating a combined preserve of more than 280 acres. This Big Valley Wetlands Preserve will protect 16% of existing Clear Lake wetlands.

The LCLT began focusing in earnest on this acquisition in early 2022 and signed a purchase option on April 6, 2022. The WCB requested that a Phase One

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Keithly acquisition should be completed soon

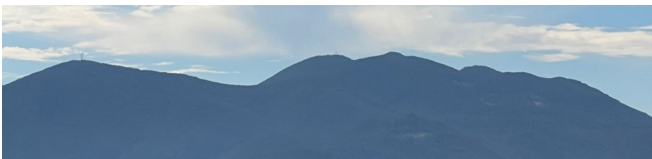
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Environmental Assessment be done and the LCLT engaged EBA Engineering (Santa Rosa) to do this. The purpose of this study was to assess the possible contamination of the property with hazardous or toxic substances or wastes. David Noren, Vice President of Environmental Services, visited the property and made the following determination: “Based on conclusions from the environmental records search, historical data review, and the site reconnaissance we find no recognized environmental conditions in connection with the subject property.” A clean bill of health!

The original delta for Manning Creek is part of the Wright Wetland Preserve. In the early 1950s, the path of Manning Creek was altered to flow through the Keithly property and no longer flowed into Clear Lake through the Wright riparian and wetland areas. The LCLT Stewardship Committee is in discussions that include the County Water Resources department and the Big Valley Band of Pomo with the goal of restoring the original flow of Manning Creek to its historic delta. This will improve lake water quality, the health of the wetlands, and habitat for wildlife.

Most of the Big Valley west of Adobe Creek drains into Thompson/Manning Creek. Sediment-bound phosphorous promotes cyanobacteria growth in Clear Lake. Spreading Manning Creek flow across the historic delta will slow the water down, permitting sedimentation of runoff. The filtering will improve the water quality of Clear Lake as well as improve the health of the wetlands. This will enhance the environment for aquatic, avian, and terrestrial animals. The Clear Lake hitch, a State Threatened Species, spawn in Manning Creek. After hatching, the young make their way back down the creek and spend their first year maturing in the tules at the mouth of the creek. The delta area, because it is a much larger wetlands than the current outlet, improves the chances of hitch survival from predation.

The Keithly property is located at 2350 South Main Street just south of the Lakeport city limits. Frontage on South Main Street will enable creation of an easily accessible entry point for public events such as hikes and wildlife viewing. It will also provide seasonal access to the Wright Wetlands Preserve.



Val Nixon is pictured signing the option to purchase agreement in April of 2022. The agreement was reached between the Keithly family and the Lake County Land Trust to purchase their 78 acre ranch near south Lakeport.



David Noren during his site visit standing on the Manning Creek levee. He completed the Phase I Environmental Assessment that was required by the Wildlife Conservation Board for the Keithly property.



The Keithly Ranch near south Lakeport is adjacent to the Lake County Land Trust's Wright Wetland Preserve and will provide more direct access to the preserve and to Clear Lake in the future.

Nicola Selph welcomed to LCLT team

The Lake County Land Trust welcomes Nicola Selph as new bookkeeper and Information Technology (IT) expert. Nicola has lived in Lake County for about 10 years, moving here from Modesto where she soon volunteered for the Redbud Audubon Society, becoming a board member and treasurer.



Nicola Selph

Nicola grew up in the Bay Area and received her undergraduate degree in biochemistry from UC Berkeley. She went on to get her PhD in biochemistry from Michigan State University. Despite her academic success, Nicola went into accounting, working for corporations in both San Francisco and Oakland, including the Oakland Tribune.

She transitioned from accounting to IT and worked in Modesto for E & J Gallo before retiring and moving to Lake County. While in the Bay Area, Nicola was a board member and treasurer for Golden Gate Audubon, one of the largest Audubon societies in California.

Nicola has been an ardent supporter of the Land Trust and is pleased to be part of the team to help move the Lake County Land Trust forward during this time of growth. She is taking on the position that was held by the talented and hard-working Anne Martin who retired after seven years of service for the Land Trust.

Nicola enjoys kayaking, birdwatching, jewelry making and other hobbies. She is enthusiastic about her new position with the Land Trust. The board of directors warmly welcomes her.



At its annual dinners the Lake County Land Trust honors “Supporters of the Year.” This year, during the 30th anniversary celebration, the Land Trust honored the late Bob Schoenherr and Lakeport resident Susan Morton. Pictured from left with LCLT president Val Nixon and board member Roberta Lyons are Anita Benzing, accepting the honor for Bob Schoenherr, and Susan Morton.

30th Anniversary dinner celebration was a fun and successful event for the Lake County Land Trust

A crowd of over 160 supporters and friends gathered at Boatique Winery on Saturday, Oct. 28 to mark an important milestone for the Lake County Land Trust (LCLT) which is celebrating its 30th anniversary throughout 2023 and 2024.

The Lake County Land Trust was incorporated in late 1993 and received tax exemption status in 1994. The Land Trust was founded to protect land in Lake County that is important for wildlife habitat, including wetlands, streams, forests and properties with other unique values.

The dinner was a great success with catering provided by Rosey Cooks Gourmet Catering. The Boatique Winery venue is always a favorite and event manager Francesca Zito helped all evening. Cobb resident Scott Serena provided music.

Guest speaker Angela De Palma-Dow, Water Resources Invasive Species Program Coordinator, also known as “The Lady of the Lake,” talked about “Why I

Love Clear Lake,” describing the amazing fact that the lake is a minimum of 500,000 years old.

The Land Trust’s president, Val Nixon, outlined the founding of the organization and thanked everyone who has been involved over the years, including donors, volunteers, former LCLT board members and employees.

Honored as Supporters of the Year were the late Bob Schoenherr and Lakeport resident Susan Morton. Congressman Mike Thompson and his wife Jan attended and participated in the evening’s activities, including the silent auction. Thompson presented a beautiful framed resolution honoring the LCLT for its 30 years of work

“It was a wonderful evening of fellowship and inspiration,” noted Nixon. “We thank all of our sponsors and supporters who attended. Know that the Land Trust is here to stay because of you.”

See more photos page 5



Congressman Mike Thompson presents a Congressional recognition honoring the Lake County Land Trust's 30th anniversary to President Val Nixon.



Mike Thompson greets "Lady of the Lake," Angela De Palma-Dow.



The silent auction brought enthusiastic bidders.



(Left) Jon Hopkins and Kirk Andrus enjoyed themselves at the Land Trust annual dinner. The first held since 2019.



A good crowd attended the 30th Anniversary Lake County Land Trust dinner.



Tom and Kathy Scavone, long time Lake County Land Trust supporters and Melissa Kinsel, ultimate volunteer and former development director for the Land Trust.



Roberta Lyons at a 2001 Blackberry Festival at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park at a Lake County Land Trust information booth.



Before it was decided to completely remodel the nature center building, volunteers painted the old house.

A board member remembers 30 years of the Lake County Land Trust

By Roberta Lyons

The year 2023 marks the 30th anniversary of the Lake County Land Trust (LCLT). As a founding board member, I carry around a lot of stories about the Lake County Land Trust. I thought it would be fun to relate a few of them, instead of simply reviewing the “history” of the LCLT. We have been reviewing that history in our monthly News and Views online newsletter and have written about it extensively in other publications. So, it is available and it is interesting!

As I have looked back on these 30 years of the Land Trust’s existence, what stands out is the role that pure serendipity has played in our success. But, it has been

“luck” backed up with hard work, determination, and what I like to think of as “pure intention.” Because of this intention, we have gained the support of many people, including our many donors, who have helped us over the years.

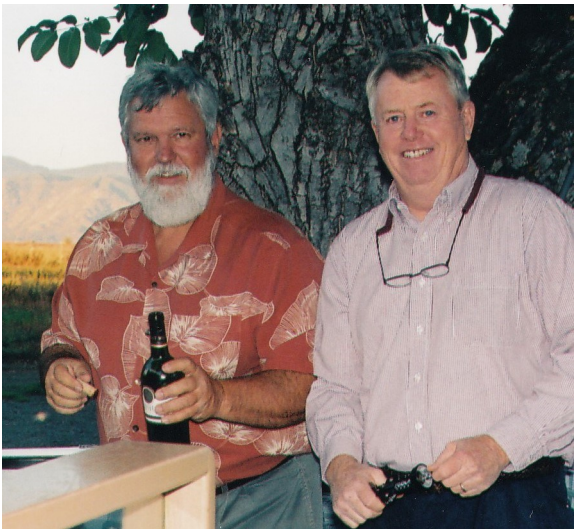
I have to start these remembrances with our friend, Lakeport attorney, Peter Windrem. I always tell people that if it weren’t for Peter, we would not have succeeded. It was his suggestion that started the process to purchase what is now the Rodman Preserve. One of my early memories is sitting at my dining room table with other founding board members and agreeing to purchase an option on the Rodman Ranch. Peter had suggested the process to us and we took his word it was the way to go. At the time, I didn’t know what an “option” was; nor did I even know what “escrow” meant! When the deal was eventually finalized, I remember being bemused as we sat in the office of the Wildlife Conservation Board, signing papers and reviewing a total of seven escrows! I just left it up to Peter.

As another example of serendipity I have to mention that even after our project had finally been approved by the WCB and we learned it would be funded, the option had run out. We needed a “bridge” funder. Months before we had hosted a representative from The Conservation Fund to tour our proposed acquisition. I called her and told her our dilemma. I heard back from her right away and still remember her words: “We can help you out.”



Former Executive Director, Susanne Scholz, talks with Clearlake resident Ken Ling at an early Lake County Land Trust annual dinner.

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Mike Adams (L) and Pete McGee at a Land Trust dinner at Rancho De La Fuentes in 2004.



Jed Steele, renowned winemaker and former winery owner in Lake County, served as the Land Trust's auctioneer at the 2004 annual dinner.

30 years of LCLT memories

(Continued from page 6)

Another project that involved serendipity was the Black Forest. This was a crazy project the Land Trust took on and certainly would not have been approved by so-called land trust experts. People in the Buckingham area did not want the Black Forest logged, which the then-owners were planning to do. They appealed to the Lake County Land Trust and we agreed to act as a “bridge” agency until the Bureau of Land Management could sell in-holdings that would finance the purchase of the forest. We took out a loan with a small community bank that agreed to interest-only payments and the community agreed to make those payments for one year. The loan was in the name of the Land Trust. How crazy is that? The community members faithfully paid every month for a year! Money that would not be returned to them as it was simply interest payments on the loan. Finally, time was up and BLM still had not come through. All was lost, I remember thinking. I felt despondent and worried that it would mean the end of the Land Trust. Then, our executive director, Susanne Scholz, attended a meeting in Sacramento of the Resources Law Group, administrators of the Packard Fund. During a round table discussion by all of the attending land trusts, Susanne gave an emotional report on what the Land Trust was facing. After the meeting, the head of the group came up to Susanne and said: “We can help you out.” And they did, by once again providing bridge financing until BLM could come up with the money to buy the Black Forest.

Those are just some examples of serendipity that

have blessed us. But luck has also shown itself through numerous large donors who just happened to come across us. Something moved them. An example of this is the well-known Pitzer Foundation in Southern California, founders of the famous Claremont colleges there. I happened to be at a Land Trust booth at one of Redbud Audubon’s Heron Festivals at Clear Lake State Park. The late Ann Pitzer came up and we had a discussion about the Land Trust and our goals. At that time we had just started our Big Valley Wetlands campaign and had a poster up about it. She was immediately in-

(Continued on page 8)



Lake County Land Trust supporters Jon and Annette Hopkins, Bonnie and Lance Kolesar, Gerri and Bill Groody, Dr. Gary Maes and Pamela Maes, gathered at the Rodman Preserve in 2004 to enjoy a lunch and walk that was auctioned at a Land Trust dinner.



Former board members Pete McGee, the late John Graham and the late Tom Gilliam at the 2002 Land Trust annual dinner in Lakeport.



Former founding board member, Kim Clymire (L) with Brad Onorato, aide to Congressman Mike Thompson at a 2002 Lake County Land Trust annual dinner at the senior center in Lakeport.

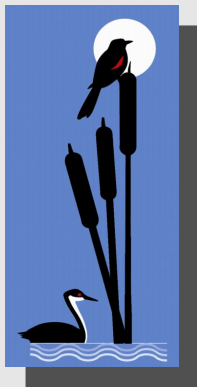
A look back at 30 years of the LCLT

(Continued from page 7)

terested and soon we were the benefactors of the foundation that has contributed to several of our acquisitions and is now funding viewing platforms at our Wright Wetland Preserve. The Pitzer family has a deep connection to Lake County as their family owns a cabin in Buckingham and has been coming to Clear Lake since the 1940s.

To conclude my thoughts, I have to say that the most fortunate development of all is the fact that the Lake County Land Trust is supported financially by local contributions. We receive grants from the Wildlife Con-

servation Board to purchase properties, but operation of the organization is dependent on local support. The Land Trust somehow has grabbed the imagination, trust, and support of the local community. To me, this is the most important element of all. We have taken risks, we have made some mistakes, and to be frank, we are working “beyond our capacity,” but through all of that we remain steadfast in the belief in what we are doing and what we have accomplished. We dearly appreciate the fact that this community believes in us, too. **See more photos page 9**



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A group of volunteers at the old Rodman Preserve house, 2002.



The annual dinner at Moore Family Winery in 2010 saw Tom and Kathy Scavone and Harry Lyons visiting.



Lynne Butcher (L) visits with Gaye Allen at a 2010 Land Trust dinner at the Moore Family Winery on Bottlerock Road. Lynne and her husband Bernie have supported the Lake County Land Trust for many years; Gaye Allen is a publisher and designer and former Land Trust board member who created the LCLT logo that is now in use.

Work underway on viewing platforms

North levee platform



The viewing platforms at the Wright Wetland Preserve near Lakeport are under construction. The platforms will include benches and interpretive signs. The Lake County Land Trust looks forward to welcoming visitors in the Spring and summer. Two platforms are planned for this project; both will have views of Clear Lake and the wildlife that thrives there.



(Above) Darin Brodnansky of Brodnansky Construction has started work on the viewing platforms at the Lake County Land Trust's Wright Wetland Preserve.

(Left) Workmen were able to get the helical pilings, special "screw" piling that don't require concrete for installation, put into the ground recently before the rains. Many thanks to the Pitzer Family Foundation in Southern California for funding this project.



A job now completed: Over 10 years ago local artist Barbara LaVasseur created beautiful hand painted and fired ceramic tiles that could be purchased in honor of individuals. Most of the tiles had been mounted around the fire place at the Rodman Preserve Nature Center. Evan Waterman, nephew of board member Roberta Lyons, mounted the tiles as a donation to the Land Trust. Evan who lives in Marin County, recently drove to Lake County to finish the job of installing all of the memorial and "in honor of" tiles. Come by the preserve sometime and enjoy his work! Evan is a ceramic tile installer in Marin County and enjoys his creative work.

Gifts of Stock are a great way to support the Lake County Land Trust, as well as saving on capital gains

There can be significant tax advantages for giving appreciated stock as a contribution to the Land Trust (LCLT) and we have the ability to accept stock donations. The tax on the gain in appreciated value will be avoided if a stock is contributed to the LCLT since the Trust is a 501c3 qualified organization. Further, the full value of the stock on the date of contribution can be used as a charitable deduction on your Federal income tax.

Your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) is also a great way to donate!

These advantages can make your contribution be even more effective in supporting the important work of the Land Trust. Another opportunity to donate to the Land Trust is through your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA. If you direct some of that RMD to the Land Trust, there is no tax on that either. We recommend that you consult your tax advisor for the specifics of your situation, but please let us know if you would like to make a contribution of stock, or some of your RMD to the Lake County Land Trust. You can reach the Land Trust at (707) 262-0707 or contact our treasurer, John Stierna at (571) 331-4452.

President's Message

By
Val
Nixon



Val Meyer Nixon

The Lake County Land Trust (LCLT) looks back at a 30-year history of conservation through acquisition, restoration, education, and collaboration. LCLT was formed through the efforts of individuals, from diverse backgrounds, that were determined that as Lake County grew and developed, we could still live in an area thriving with life. They also felt that we could act collectively as a community to restore the ecosystems that all life depends on.

If you look at a map of Lake County there are many blank places. As Aldo Leopold said, that to some, “a blank space on a map is a useless waste; to others it’s the most valuable part.” Those blank spaces on the Lake County map allow wildlife to travel unimpeded and cleaner air to be sustained through carbon sequestration from the variety of plant communities that thrive here. Those same plant communities support all animal life. From the small pollinators and zooplankton to the large mammals including humans, we all depend on the health of large swaths of open space so readily seen in Lake County. I am honored to be part of an organization that works to ensure that current and future generations live in a community that understands and values the importance of the natural world and the blank spaces on the map for our own survival.

This month escrow will close on the Keithly Preserve and the LCLT will have acquired over 300 acres of property along the shores of Clear Lake to conserve, restore and allow public access. I am grateful to the visionaries who 30 years ago formed the Lake County Land Trust. I look forward to partnerships including with the Big Valley Band of Pomo to manage and restore and allow access.

The darkest season of the year is also the season of hope. I am humbled by the hope and visions of the

founders of the Lake County Land Trust. I am honored to work with Board Members, volunteers and a community of supporters who truly value the beauty of living in a county with open space, clean air, a vast array of wildlife and a very old lake.

“Somehow, we must keep hope alive - a hope that we can find a way to educate all, alleviate poverty, assuage anger, and live in harmony with the environment, with animals and with each other.” Jane Goodall

With much appreciation,

Val Nixon

President, Lake County Land Trust

Our end-of-year Holiday Appeal is on the way!

The Lake County Land Trust’s end-of-year Holiday Appeal should have already been delivered to you, or is on its way. We hope you enjoy the letter with its brief update of our activities and the images of our properties.

The Lake County Land Trust sends two “appeals,” every year – our “Mid-Year Appeal” and our “Holiday Appeal.” If you give to either, or both, you are considered a “Supporter” of the Lake County Land Trust; or, of course, if you donate any other time during the year. If you have already donated or plan to, many thanks!

You may send a check to: Lake County Land Trust, P.O. Box 1017, Lakeport, CA 95453 or go on-line to www.lakecountylandtrust.org and click on the “donate” button on the homepage.



The Pitzer family has a long and meaningful connection to Clear Lake

The Pitzer Family Foundation is a longtime, well-established philanthropic foundation and a generous supporter of the Lake County Land Trust. Russell K. Pitzer, a Southern California lawyer and citrus farmer, was known for his generous support of higher education including the 1963 creation of Pitzer College, one of the seven colleges that form the Claremont Colleges. That generosity has continued through the generations. His son Kenneth was a renowned chemistry scholar at the University of California, Berkeley and President of Stanford University. In 1994 Kenneth and his wife Jean created the Pitzer Family Foundation. Their children, Russell M. Pitzer PhD, John S. Pitzer and the late Ann E. Pitzer, have continued the family tradition of supporting education and socially responsible causes through their management of the Pitzer Family Foundation.

Like several of the Lake County Land Trust's out-of-county supporters, the Pitzer family has a long and meaningful relationship to this area and especially to Clear Lake. The connection started in the 1940s when Kenneth discovered the warm waters of Clear Lake. He enjoyed sailing, but the waters of San Francisco Bay were very cold, which according to his son John, may have led him here. In 1945 he and his wife, Jean, purchased a lot on the Buckingham Peninsula for \$1,850. The story is that during the post-WWII building boom, materials were hard to come by, but it was possible to purchase home building kits from Sears and Roebuck. In 1947, with the help of a local contractor, their summer house was assembled from one of these kits.

Kenneth's sons John and Russell reminisced about family summers spent on Clear Lake in the 1950s. John said their father was an early riser and spent mornings tending to a fruit orchard he had planted. At harvest time the boys and their sister Ann were pressed into service. One of their favorite rewards was homemade peach ice cream. They also made their own root beer.

According to John, mornings were chore time, afternoons were free time for swimming, napping or reading and in the late afternoons the family would go sailing. Everyone but their mother would be enlisted to sail. Typically, they would sail through the narrows towards Soda Bay. If another sailboat was sighted, they would often race. While the family was out sailing their mother would walk along the beach where she noticed obsidian artifacts. She was also a scholar and wrote a scientific study called "A Guide to the Identification of



From left: John Pitzer, the late Ann Pitzer and Russell Pitzer. The Pitzer family foundation has been a valuable supporter of the Lake County Land Trust.

Burins in Prehistoric Chipped Stone Assemblages" that included findings from Clear Lake. It was published by the University of Texas in 1977.

John shared stories of weekly shopping trips to Lakeport and how his sister Ann became an accomplished waterskier thanks to a neighbor with a power boat. The children would swim out to Anderson Island and back on those lazy summer afternoons. He remembered having to push their car up the steep driveway when heavy rain created mud during their winter visits.

In 1997 Ann inherited the cabin when their father passed away. She became aware of the Lake County Land Trust when she visited the Land Trust booth at the local Redbud Audubon Heron Festival. Board member Roberta Lyons recalls talking to her there.

The Pitzer foundation has generously contributed to the purchase of two of the Big Valley Wetland Preserves. Most recently they have sponsored the building of viewing and educational platforms on the Wright Preserve. John's son Greg is now the owner of the summer home in Buckingham. He has requested that one of the educational platforms be about wildflowers to honor his Aunt Ann's love of them and their abundance in Lake County

Lake County is a small, out-of-the way destination. Over the years many visitors have created lifetime memories from its unique setting and beautiful scenery where recreational activities abound. The Pitzer Family Foundation has created an amazing philanthropic legacy. Their generous inclusion of the Lake County Land Trust is much appreciated as are their memories of summer visits over the past 60+ years.



Thanks you for your support!
Your contribution helps us preserve nature and wildlife.

Sponsorships for Annual Dinner 10/28/23

\$2000 Bald Eagle Level

- Anonymous
- Susan King
- Cathy Koehler & Paul Aigner
- Sharon Weeks

\$1000 Osprey Level

- Roberta and Harry Lyons
- Mike Thompson

\$500 Blue Heron Level

- Brad & Kathy Barnwell
- Anita Benzing
- Angela & Richard Birk
- Lynne & Bernie Butcher
- Paul & Jackie Farley
- Middletown Rancheria
- Tom & Val Nixon
- David & Monica Rosenthal
- Nancy Ruzicka
- James & Olga Steele
- Kathee Toy & Shirl Struempf
- David & Merry Jo Velasquez
- John Wise & Evelyn Wachtel
- Jerry & Nikki White

\$250 Snowy Egret Level

- Law Office of Dennis A. Fordham

Many Thanks to . . .

- Francesca Zito, Boatique Winery
- Rosey Cooks Gourmet Catering
- Angela DePalma-Dow
- Congressman Mike Thompson
- Melissa Kinsel
- Kathy Windrem
- Wilda Shock
- Pak N Mail
- Scott Serena

**Many Thanks to our
Silent Auction Donors**

- Fritz and Mischell Jewelry
- Tess McGuire Hats
- Pat Harmon
- Ben van Steenburg III
- Pierre Cutler
- Roberta Lyons
- Six Sigma Winery
- Paul Aigner and Cathy Koehler
- Kathy Scavone
- Tom Scavone
- Henry Bornstein and Gae Henry
- Nichola Selph
- Lucia Boyle
- Mike Thompson
- Merry Jo Velasquez



Western Wood-Pewee

Five new species of birds found at Wright Wetland Preserve during summer of 2023

By Roberta Lyons (with observations and photos by Dave Woodward)

Thanks to observations by Dave Woodward, Lake County Land Trust volunteer, along with sightings from other excellent birders in our area, a total of 170 species have been identified at LCLT's Wright Wetland Preserve near Lakeport. One hundred and sixty-four of those are native birds. Five species were added during the summer of 2023, probably birds arriving during fall migration. The new species were Hooded Oriole, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Lazuli Bunting, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Brewer's Sparrow. According to Dave, all are fairly common breeding birds in appropriate habitat in Lake County except Brewer's Sparrow, which is an extreme rarity anywhere in the North Coast ranges of California. This is just the second Lake County record for the species.

Clear Lake and other flooded habitats

In the eastern channel on the property and in the open offshore areas of Clear Lake, numerous Canada Geese, Mallards and Wood Ducks were seen all summer long and some of the females of all three species had broods of young. *Aechmophorus* grebes constructed at least 33 nests in open lake water in late July and early August, but these were once again all sunk by wind late in August. A few pelicans and cormorants were seen on the lake throughout summer. Closer to shore, tule beds with some open water areas supported a wide variety of birds including Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Marsh Wrens, Song Sparrows, Common Yel-

(Continued on page 16)



Western Tanager



Lazuli Bunting

New birds spotted at Wright Wetland Preserve

(Continued from page 15)

lowthroats, Mallards and Wood Ducks. More than 200 *Aechmophorus* grebes occupied these areas during June, but their abundance declined as the lake level dropped later in summer.

Wading birds, including Great Blue and Green Herons, Great Egrets and Black-crowned Night Herons, were prevalent in the tules especially after the lake level fell. Also spotted were Virginia Rails and Soras, which lingered in flooded tule beds and tall vegetation into fall. Belted Kingfishers, which arrived last winter, continued to patrol the eastern channel through summer.

Grasslands and trees are also valuable habitat

The grassland areas of the preserve provide a different habitat for many passerines, or songbirds. Meadowlarks were observed repeatedly during spring and summer, providing evidence that at least some of the population nested. Large flocks of Red-winged Blackbirds, sometimes over 200, and smaller numbers of Song Sparrows and Lesser and American Goldfinches were commonly seen. Northern Rough-winged Swallows, a fairly common breeding bird in the Clear Lake basin, were first observed on June 29. A flock of 17 caught insects over the grassland and rested in trees or wires and stayed at least three days. Chipping Sparrows, which migrated through the preserve in spring, also passed through as fall migrants. Savannah Sparrows, which overwinter at the preserve, began to arrive on August 16.

The gem of “summer” was another fall migrant, a Brewer’s Sparrow. Brewer’s Sparrows nest in sagebrush habitat in the Great Basin. Fall migration normally occurs east of the Sierras when they fly southward to southern deserts, however they sometimes linger in grassland or weedy fields along the way, similar habi-

tats to the location where the sparrow was seen at the preserve.

The eucalyptus grove and native trees remain highly attractive to birds including orioles, scrub-jays, woodpeckers, flycatchers, wrens, titmice, nuthatches, towhees, sparrows, quail and a few Anna’s Hummingbirds. Black-headed Grosbeaks, Western Tanagers, Yellow-rumped, Yellow and Orange-crowned Warblers, which lingered in the trees during spring migration, all returned as fall migrants during August.

Among the new birds at the preserve were a pair of Hooded Orioles that landed in the eucalyptus trees on June 29, however they were soon chased out by Bull-ock’s Orioles. As many as four female and juvenile Lazuli Buntings foraged in oaks near the corral between mid-July and late August. They also repeatedly flew into the canary grass where they probably fed on seeds, Dave reports. Also new was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher that was seen catching insects in an oak just south of the corral on August 27. Both the buntings and the gnatcatcher commonly breed in chaparral or brushy habitats in the Mendocino National Forest, so they may have nested there or even closer by.

Raptors observed include Ospreys and Bald Eagles which were commonly seen flying over the lake or in trees on the berm. Red-shouldered Hawks were common in riparian areas along the channel and heard distantly at Manning Creek through summer. White-tailed Kites and Red-tailed Hawks were seen a few times. An immature Sharp-shinned Hawk and an adult Cooper’s Hawk were both present on August 27.

Dave reports that other summer observations included Coyotes, Mule Deer, Black-tailed Jackrabbits and Western Gray Squirrels.

See more photos page 17-18



Chipping Sparrow



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher



Mammals are also part of the fauna at the Wright Wetland Preserve. A coyote is on the look out.



Black-tailed deer are also a common sighting at the preserve.



Western Meadowlark frequent the tall grasses.



Great Horned Owl.



Western Kingbird

**Become a supporter of
The Lake County Land Trust
Supporter Benefits include:**

Golden Eagle: \$1,000+

- Reserved seating at our Annual Benefits Dinner upon request.
- Invitation to special Land Trust events.
- Invitation to our annual "State of the Land Trust," coffee
- Acknowledgement on the Land Trust website, updated annually and our twice yearly newsletters.

Osprey: \$500-\$999

- Invitation to special Land Trust events.
- Invitation to our annual "State of the Land Trust" Coffee
- Acknowledge on the Land Trust website, updated annually and in our twice yearly newsletters.

Blue Heron: \$100-\$499

- Invitation to our annual "State of the Land Trust" Coffee
- Acknowledgment on the Land Trust website updated annually and in our twice yearly newsletters.

Snowy Egret: \$20-\$99

- Acknowledgement on our Land Trust website, updated annually and in our twice yearly newsletters.

To donate online, go to <http://www.lakecountylandtrust.org>

Yes! I want to become a supporter of the Lake County Land Trust!

- Yes, I would like to support the LCLT
- Please renew my support with LCLT
- Please increase my support with the below contribution
- Please sign me up as a sustained giving supporter and bill my credit card on a monthly basis for the amount indicated below.

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, ST, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

**Make checks payable to: LCLT
Mail to: PO Box 1017, Lakeport, CA 95453**

I'd like to pay with my credit card:
Card Type: VISA MasterCard (circle one)
Card# _____

Expires ____/____ Security Code* _____
(*3 digit code on back of your card)

Signature: _____

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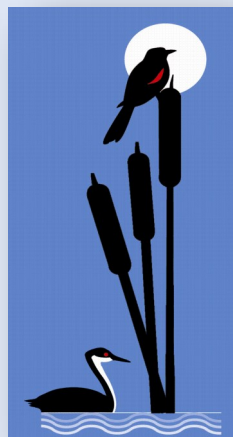
Leave a lasting impact with a legacy gift

Some LCLT supporters have chosen to support our mission through planned giving—including LCLT in a will or trust—or making another kind of legacy gift. Their foresight and yours, should you choose to join them, ensures the strength and the sustainability of the Lake County Land Trust.

Your planned gift to LCLT will ensure that conservation efforts continue to preserve and enhance vital biodiversity, improve the health of our ancient lake, allow wildlife to flourish, and encourage sustainable economic growth.

Whether you are taking those first important steps toward planning your estate or are in the process of updating your estate plan, please consider including the Lake County Land Trust in your plans.

If you would like more information about Legacy Giving opportunities, please contact Lake County Land Trust board president Val Nixon at (707)331-8321 or email her at 4val944@gmail.com.



You can choose to receive your newsletter by email

You can opt to receive your LCLT newsletter via email, postal mail, or both! Please let us know which you prefer.

Contact us at: LCLT@lakecountylandtrust.org if you would like anything changed in the way you receive your newsletter.
Thank You!