



# The Western Grebe

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

[www.redbudaudubon.org](http://www.redbudaudubon.org)

Volume 41—Issue No. 7—March 2016

## Rattlesnakes: their habits and bites

On March 17, Redbud Audubon will welcome wildlife biologist, Mike Cardwell, M.S., a nationally-recognized expert on venomous animals and the injuries they produce.

He served on the panel of subject matter experts who revised treatment guidelines for North American pitviper bites in 2015, co-authored the

### MARCH MEETING

Thursday, March 17

\* Speaker: Wildlife biologist Mike Cardwell, M.S., discusses "Rattlesnakes: their habits and bites"

\* Refreshments: 7 pm  
Announcements: 7:15 pm  
Program: 7:30 pm

\* Methodist Church Social Hall,  
16255, Second St. Lower Lake

chapter on North American venomous reptile bites for the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of Auerbach's *Wilderness Medicine* (in press), and is co-editor of *The Biology of Rattlesnakes*, a 600-page compilation of the work of 98 researchers (2008; Loma Linda University Press).

He has been invited to speak at multiple annual meetings of organizations like the Wilderness Medical Society and the National Association for Search & Rescue.

Cardwell has authored numerous articles for both scientific and non-technical publications and his long-term radiotelemetry field study of Mohave Rattlesnakes was the first for this notorious species and was prominently featured in Animal Planet's *Venom ER* television series.

This should be a fascinating program and of great interest to those of us who live in Lake County, where Rattlesnakes are quite at home!

Please join us at the Lower Lake Methodist Church Social Hall for an interesting evening.



Wildlife Biologist Mike Cardwell uses an antenna and receiver to locate snakes tagged with radio transmitters. (Photo by Guy Galante)

### Please note meeting place change

In January, Redbud Audubon started meeting at the Methodist Church Social Hall, 16255 Second St. in Lower Lake as we did last year. The hall is across the parking lot from the Methodist Church. If you are coming through Lower Lake, turn left on Lake Street and then right on Second St. The church is on the right. We feel that moving our meetings to the south end of the county for half of our year is a way to accommodate all of our Redbud Audubon members county wide.

# President's Message

by Roberta Lyons

This has been a great early Spring (well, I know it is still technically winter!) on my end of the lake near Jago Bay. For the last few days we have had at least 200 White Pelicans displaying their antics: flying back and forth across the bay, herding the minnows (I think that is what they are doing) to the shoreline where they gobble them up. There are thousands of Western and Clarke's Grebes as far as the eye can see along with numerous small busy flocks of Lesser Scaup, Eared Grebes, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead and Bonaparte's Gulls.

It is so fun to live near Clear Lake, what a wonderful place this is.

As you will read in this current newsletter, Heron Days is being planned this year for two separate weekends, April 30 and May 7. Once again, we are not doing the festival but we still offer hour and a half boat rides with experienced birding guides. This is a fun event and I urge everyone to sign up as soon as they can.

Once again it is time to plead with local Redbud Audubon members to agree to take on leadership roles in this organization. Anyone who is interested is invited to our board meetings. We hold them at Lower Lake Pizza starting at 5:30 p.m. on the same day as the program meeting at the Methodist Church social hall. I don't want to be a "downer," or appear threatening or negative, but if we do not get new leadership, the organization will have to be shut down. This is my second year as president after having been president for six years in the past. All other board members have served at their posts for years as well. Come to our next board meeting on March 17 at 5:30 p.m. at Lower Lake pizza. We will have job descriptions available!!!!

*Hundreds of White Pelicans are being found in numerous areas on Clear Lake.  
Photos by Barbara Bridges*



# **Redbud Audubon Chapter Only Membership Available**

*By Vivian McFarling*

If you are a member of National Audubon Society, you are automatically a member of your local chapter. Although National Audubon provides minimal financial support to the local chapters, it is important to continue your renewals with them to fund the many ways that National contributes to the preservation of our birdlife.

### We could use your support

If you wish to support our local Redbud Audubon chapter, one way is to donate on a regular basis. Online donations are available by visiting our website at [www.redbudaudubon.org](http://www.redbudaudubon.org) and clicking on "DONATE NOW".

Another option is to become a Redbud Audubon Chapter-Only member. In the past, we did not have the staff to manage the renewal process. We have now enrolled the services of Member Planet which has the ability to automate the membership renewal system. You can enroll online through our [www.redbudaudubon.org](http://www.redbudaudubon.org) website and click on "JOIN US". By law Member Planet must ask for your date of birth to prove that you are an adult. Other than that, all that is required is your name, email address and payment information. Any other information you provide is optional.

This system is new to us, but should work pretty seamlessly. If you do have any problems or concerns, please email us at [redbud.audubon@gmail.com](mailto:redbud.audubon@gmail.com). Your feedback is important to us.

## ***Would you like to receive the Western Grebe by email?***

If you have looked at our newsletter, The Western Grebe, on our website where it is published in color, you probably have noticed how great it looks! If you send us your email, we can add you to our email list to send you the Grebe newsletter every month so you can enjoy the beautiful photos and graphics in color. Also, receiving the Grebe by email provides a substantial savings to the Redbud Audubon Society as we do not have to pay the mailing cost. Please let us know if you would prefer to receive your grebe electronically and we will take you off of our "hard,"

*Continued next column...*

## **Western Grebe by email**

*Continued from previous column ...*

mailing list and add you to our email list to receive the Grebe. If we already have your email, but have not heard from you that you would like to receive the Grebe by email instead of through the mail, please let us know!!! You can accomplish this by emailing us at [redbud.audubon@gmail.com](mailto:redbud.audubon@gmail.com). Thank you!

## **REDBUD AUDUBON BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



*President: Roberta Lyons Vice President: Tina Wasson  
Treasurer: Nicola Selph Secretary: Marina Vedovi*

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

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Education - Joyce Anderson  
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Membership Manager - Susanne Scholz  
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Volunteer Coordinator - Vivian McFarling  
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Webmaster – Bonnie Thompson  
Grebe Conservation—Marilyn Waits

**To contact a board member:  
Phone 707/ 263-8030  
Email: [redbud.audubon@gmail.com](mailto:redbud.audubon@gmail.com)**



*A group getting ready to leave on Henry Bornstein and Gae Henry's boat out of Redbud Park last year.*

# *Heron Days are Here Again*

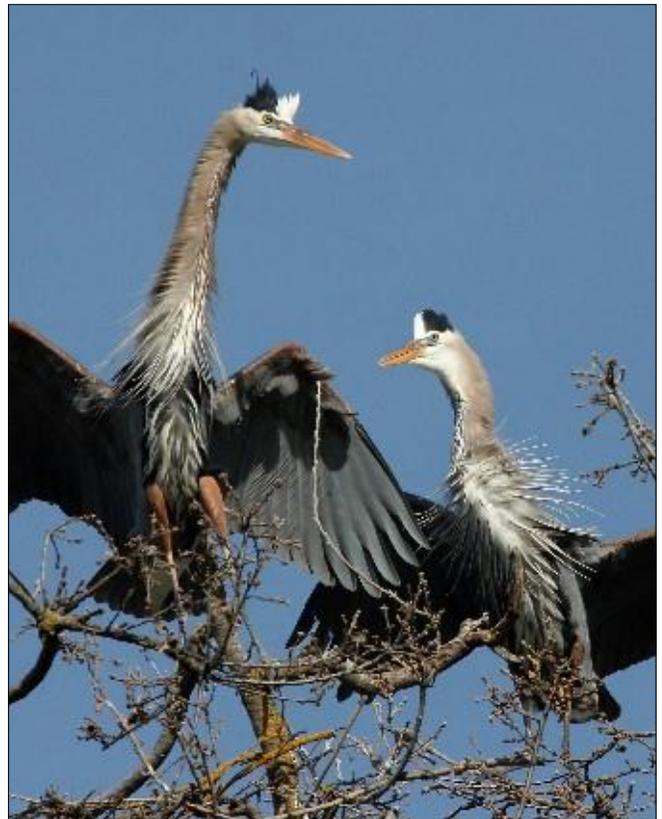
*By Vivian McFarling*

Redbud Audubon's Heron Festival has come and gone, but the pontoon boat tours, which were central to the festival, continue on as Heron Days. Boat owners volunteer their boats for 90-minute tours which are offered throughout the day from 8 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Bird guides accompany each tour. You will have the opportunity to see large varieties of bird life on Clear Lake including Great Blue Herons nesting, Cormorants and blackbirds. Other probabilities are various raptors, grebes, ducks, woodpeckers, and much more.

On April 30, boats depart from Lakeside County Park which is just west of Clear Lake State Park. On May 7, boats depart from Redbud Park in the city of Clearlake. The fee for the tours is \$25.

The planned date for the opening of registration is Thursday, March 10.

Go to [www.redbudaudubon.org](http://www.redbudaudubon.org), and click on the Heron Days tab. This is our 21<sup>st</sup> year of offering these popular tours. Our Redbud Audubon members are the first to get the news. Early registration is encouraged.



*Two Great Blue Herons near their nesting site.  
Photo by Brad Barnwell*



## Observations

By Jerry White (JRW)

### February 24, 2016

A **MEW GULL** was found at the Kelsey Creek outlet on December 1 (JRW). A **BURROWING OWL** was found on Bartlett Springs Road by Dave and Marybeth Woodward on November 6th.

A **PACIFIC-SLOPE FLYCATCHER** was seen at Clear Lake State Park on December 15th by Dave Woodward. This was the 5th Winter record for the county. There were four **ROCK WRENS** seen along Bartlett Springs Road on November 6th by Dave and Marybeth Woodward. A **CANYON WREN** was reported on Mt. St. Helena on November 23rd by Brook O'Conner. A **WINTER WREN** was first heard on November 7th at Clear Lake State Park by Bryan McIntosh. The bird was mostly heard and sometimes briefly seen by many other observers into January.

A **TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE** was found at Clear Lake State Park on November 17th by John Sterling. A **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE** was discovered along Bartlett Springs Road on November 6th by Dave Woodward.

A **BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER** was found and photographed at Clear Lake State Park by Doug and Elisa Prather on November 26th. The bird was seen again on December 16th by Brad Barnwell.

## Great day at Clear Lake State Park

The February field trip at Clear Lake State Park was a nice day to bird after the sun finally came out, according to one of the leaders and the person who tallies our birds, Kathy Barnwell. The group of 14 participants saw 54 species. According to Kathy they did see a Peregrine Falcon and almost 300 White Pelicans (flying over) and lots of Yellow-rumped Warblers. The group also spotted two Osprey soaring together above the park and the Tree Swallows are coming back, making lots of chattering noise above everyone's heads. "Sounds of Spring!"

| <u>Species</u>            | <u>Count</u> |                         |    |
|---------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|----|
| Canada Goose              | 6            | Pileated Woodpecker     | 1  |
| Wood Duck                 | 5            | Peregrine Falcon        | 1  |
| Mallard                   | 4            | Black Phoebe            | 1  |
| Lesser Scaup              | 1            | Steller's Jay           | 4  |
| Bufflehead                | 11           | Western Scrub-Jay       | 9  |
| Common Merganser          | 2            | American Crow           | 11 |
| Ruddy Duck                | 2            | Common Raven            | 8  |
| Wild Turkey               | 17           | Tree Swallow            | 30 |
| Pied-billed Grebe         | 11           | Oak Titmouse            | 8  |
| Eared Grebe               | 1            | Bushtit                 | 12 |
| Double-crested Cormorant  | 11           | White-breasted Nuthatch | 5  |
| American White Pelican    | 277          | Bewick's Wren           | 3  |
| Great Blue Heron          | 2            | Western Bluebird        | 5  |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron | 2            | Hermit Thrush           | 1  |
| Turkey Vulture            | 12           | American Robin          | 4  |
| Osprey                    | 2            | Varied Thrush           | 2  |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk        | 1            | Northern Mockingbird    | 1  |
| Red-shouldered Hawk       | 2            | European Starling       | 1  |
| Red-tailed Hawk           | 2            | Yellow-rumped Warbler   | 28 |
| American Coot             | 15           | Fox Sparrow             | 3  |
| Spotted Sandpiper         | 1            | Golden-crowned Sparrow  | 13 |
| Anna's Hummingbird        | 4            | White-throated Sparrow  | 2  |
| Belted Kingfisher         | 1            | California Towhee       | 4  |
| Acorn Woodpecker          | 8            | Spotted Towhee          | 6  |
| Nuttall's Woodpecker      | 1            | Brewer's Blackbird      | 7  |
| Downy Woodpecker          | 1            | American Goldfinch      | 4  |
| Northern Flicker          | 7            | House Sparrow           | 1  |

## Field Trip at Highland Springs Reservoir

Our March 19 field trip will be at Highland Springs Reservoir. This is a nice outing with songbirds, waterfowl, and also raptors. As usual, meet in the main parking area at Highland Springs. To get there, take the Highland Springs turn off from Hwy. 29 between Lakeport and Kelseyville. Follow signage to the reservoir. For info call Pat Harmon at (707) 263-4977.

## Field Trip Calendar (2015-16)

Following is the field trip calendar for the Redbud Audubon Society for 2015/16. Prior to each field trip a description will appear in the *Western Grebe* and on our website with more information about the upcoming outing. You can also call Pat Harmon at (707) 263-4977 for information. Outings start at 9 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

**March 19** – Highland Springs Reservoir

**April 23** – Laguna de Santa Rosa. Hwy. 12

**May** – Heron Festival - TBA

**Redbud Audubon**  
**PO Box 5780**  
**Clearlake, CA 95422**

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## **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.

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.

- Save printing and mailing costs by sending my newsletter to my email address.
- I want to receive the newsletter by regular mail, but please email notifications to me.

**My Email Address is:**

In addition to my membership, I would like to make a contribution to the local work of Redbud Audubon Society:  
\_\_\_ \$10 \_\_\_ \$20 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ Other

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

*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*

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