



The Western Grebe

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

www.redbudaudubon.org

Volume 42—Issue No. 9—MAY 2017

Annual Audubon end-of-year picnic and officers' installation

Redbud Audubon Society members and guests are welcome to join us on Thursday, May 18, at 5:30 p.m. for our annual end-of-the-year picnic and installation of officers.

The event will again be held at Lakeside County Park on Park Dr. off of Soda Bay Road. The picnic is a potluck, but Audubon

supplies hot-dogs, buns and condiments. You are welcome to bring alternate meat or meat-substitute to grill if you prefer. Sodas and water will also be provided.

MAY MEETING

Thursday, May 18

- * End of year potluck picnic and installation of officers
- * 5:30 pm
- * Lakeside County Park on Park Drive off of Soda Bay Road

Participants are encouraged to bring salad, beans, chips, or dessert to share. Please arrive at 5:30. 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.



*Captain Rick White and Bird Guide Brad Barnwell show tour guests a variety of birdlife.
Photo by Barbara Bridges*

Heron Days Mini-Report

At this writing, we have hosted two of our four Heron Days boat tours, April 29 and 30 from Lakeside Park. The weather cooperated with comfortable warm days and calm waters at Lakeside County Park.

High waters allowed us to go back into McGough Slough where we were able to get right under Heron nests for an excellent view. One group saw a dozen Yellow-Headed Blackbirds in

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President's Message

by Co-President Bonnie Thompson

Successful Heron Days and outstanding programs highlighted 2017

This past year, ALL of our programs have been outstanding. Our fall programs in Kelseyville included Dr. Harry Lyons and his "Lessons from Green Water" followed by Dr. Floyd Hayes and his "Adventures Along the Amazon." And, we can't forget Bob Lewis and "A Bird's Rainbow" and our annual "Bird Identification" with Brad Barnwell as we prepared for our annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) in December. Our spring programs in Lower Lake took us from the Pacific with "Our Changing Oceans" with Ron LeValley to "Travels in Ecuador" with Gordon Beebe. And we ended the year learning about "California Dragonflies" with Kathy and Dave Biggs and "BATS!" with Rachael Long. Pretty amazing what we were able to offer this year. We think next year will be just as exciting!

And, thanks to our field trip coordinator, Pat Harmon, we've traveled near and far for some awesome sightings. And thanks to our CBC coordinators, Brad and Kathy Barnwell, we counted a lot of birds!

Finally, we are ending the year with a very successful Heron Days 2017. We thank the many

volunteers who make this annual event successful. The dedicated volunteers who assist with the planning and registration, those who serve as bird guides, boat captains, and all those working behind the scenes, are one special group of wonderful and dedicated people! Thank you!

We wouldn't be able to make any of this happen without our committed board members.

Please consider joining us on our board. Consider serving on the board to see what it is like and what you have to offer. Please call Roberta Lyons at (707) 994-2024 or email: roberta.lyons@att.net if you would like to discuss how you can get involved to help the birds and other wildlife of Lake County. We hope to see you at our picnic on May 18 at Lakeside County Park and in September as we start off a new year of programs and field trips.

As I mentioned at our April meeting, I will be moving from the area; I have enjoyed working with this group of dedicated professionals who are passionate about birds. I thank them for sharing their knowledge about birds but most of all for their friendship. Again, I hope to see you at the end of year picnic on May 18.

Your Membership 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 now offer chapter-only membership where by you may enroll via the internet. You can visit our website at www.redbudaudubon.org and click on JOIN US for further details. Also, as a remind-

er, 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.

Meet Board Member Susanne Scholz



Susanne is Membership Manager for Redbud Audubon. She has been a member and held many leadership positions in the club for almost 40 years.

In 1978 Susanne moved from Marin, where she had taken the weekly outings led by Audubon's Mrs. Terwilliger, to Lake County, where she attended a Redbud Audubon Meeting and was immediately recruited to be Social Chairman. Now, almost 40 years later, she has been President for a number of years, Secretary for a few years and is currently one of the people looking after Redbud's Membership. Along the way, she met her husband, Jim, who came to Audubon seeking photographic opportunities and was soon recruited to be Treasurer. He has also served a few years as President and now does the mailing duties for the newsletter.

Susanne authored Nature Notes, a weekly column in the *Clearlake Observer-American* about the natural world in Lake County, for five years, and served on the Board of the Lake County Land Trust, before spending 10 years as their first Executive Director.

She is an avid birder, kayaker, camper, and gardener and loves to travel. A favorite trip, to Costa Rica, was organized by local Audubon member Bella Kluyt and included several members of Redbud Audubon.

REDBUD AUDUBON BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Co-Presidents:

Roberta Lyons & Bonnie Thompson

Vice President: Tina Wasson

Treasurer: Nicola Selph

Secretary: Beth Shaver

STANDING COMMITTEES

- Bird Observations - Jerry White
- Christmas Bird Count – Brad and Kathy Barnwell
- Conservation - Roberta Lyons & Evelyn Wachtel
- Education - Joyce Anderson and Lisa Prather
- Field Trips - Pat Harmon
- Hospitality - Pat Harmon
- Membership Manager - Susanne Scholz
- Newsletter Editor - Roberta Lyons
- Newsletter Production - Jim Scholz
- Volunteer Coordinator - Vivian McFarling
- Publicity - Bonnie Thompson
- Webmaster – Bonnie Thompson
- Grebe Conservation—Marilyn Waits

To contact a board member:

Phone 707/ 263-8030

Email: redbud.audubon@gmail.com



Lisa Prather and Marilyn Waits at the Redbud Audubon booth at Heron Days.

***All Heron Days photos courtesy
Barbara Bridges***



High water allowed boats to bring guests close underneath Heron nests at McGough Slough.

Heron Days Mini-Report

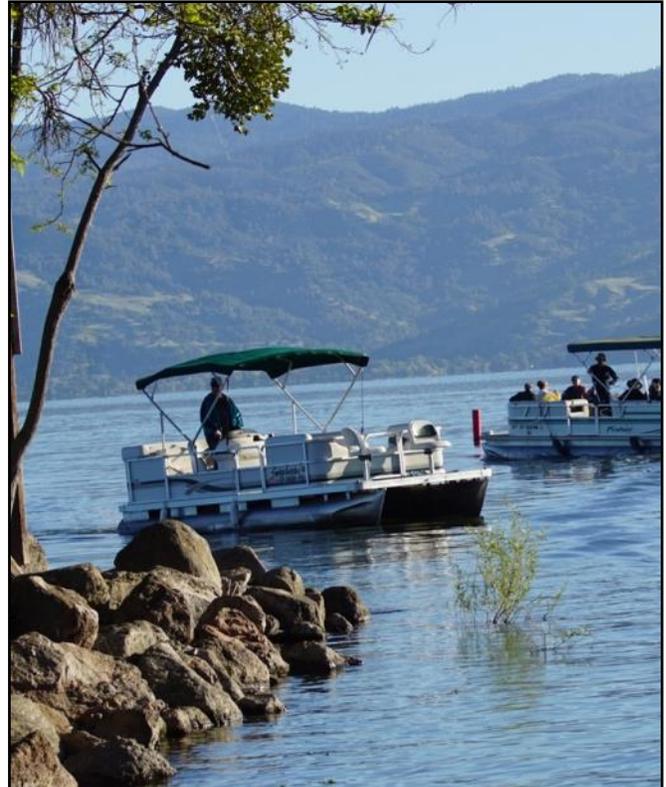
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the tules. Others saw two Bald Eagles and White Pelicans. A scope was set up right at the docks and was focused on an Osprey nest located off the parking lot.

All went well on Saturday. Each boater made two 90-minute tours. On Sunday Bonny and Clyde's boat broke down in McGough Slough on their first tour. Bob Rumpfelt was able to tow them out, and his boat was able to accommodate some of Bonny and Clyde's second-tour guests. Jim Herrmann graciously offered to run a third tour for the remaining guests. Bonny acted as bird guide. To reward the participants for their patience, they got an extra long tour.

All in all, we were able to accommodate about 160 guests that weekend.

Our next tours will take off on May 6 and 7 from Shady Acres Campground and should be another delightful time for all.



An estimated 160 guests were taken on pontoon boats and spotted Osprey, Pelicans, Herons and more.



Great Blue Herons were a favorite during the tours.



A flock of colorful Yellow-Headed Blackbirds were spotted amidst the tules.



The Great Blue Heron nests provided exciting viewing for observers from the pontoon boats.



A scope allowed visitors to view the goings on at a giant Osprey nest located near the parking lot.



Pelicans provided guests with quite a show.

Education Report

Jackie Millar, Coyote Valley Elementary fifth-grade teacher, participated in the curriculum provided by Audubon this year. She shares her thoughts:

Dear Mrs. Anderson,

Unfortunately our class did not get out much with the rain to look for birds during the great backyard bird count. We did spot a white egret in the field one day.

That said, our fifth grade classroom had an incredible time learning about birds with the quality, colorful, and engaging Audubon resources. The students especially enjoyed exploring the website. We poured over the magazines as a class, and had fun exploring the numerous resources on the well-crafted web component, especially the quizzes, and printable activities.

I was particularly proud of the posters the students lovingly created to warn fishers of the various dangers to birds from left over fishing lines. I've included some pictures of students with their posters.

The curriculum is aesthetically pleasing, intellectually stimulating, and encourages students to be critical thinkers who take an active role in helping to treasure and protect our birds.

Thank you for the opportunity to experience this valuable resource.

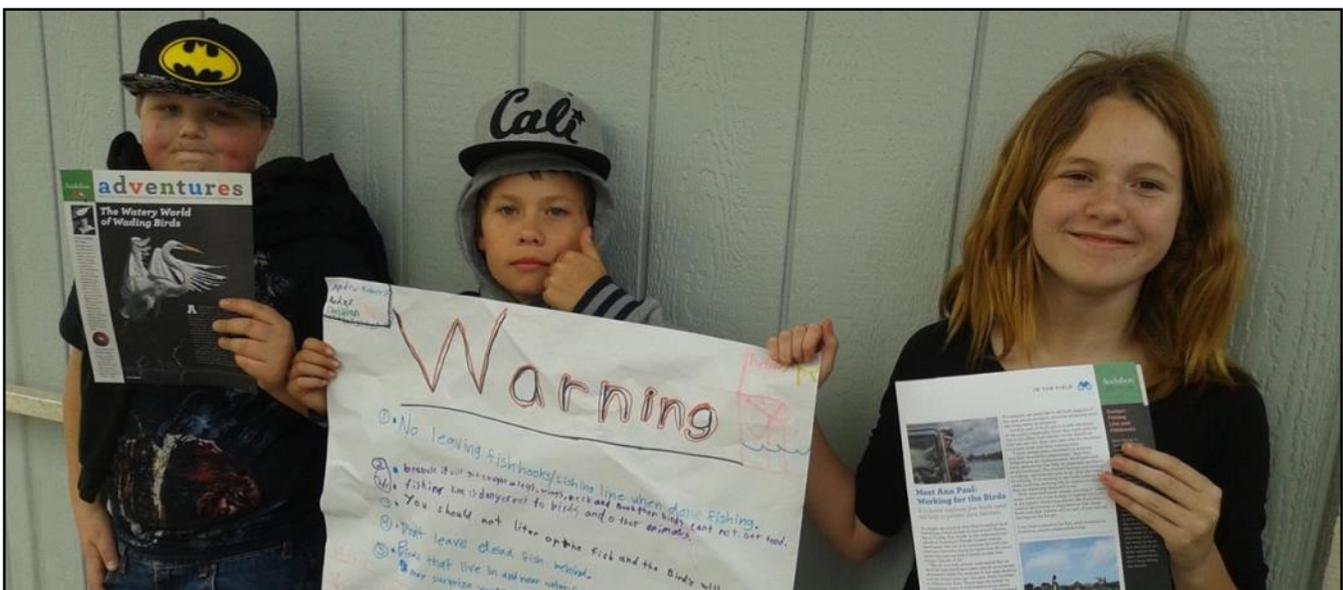
-Jackie Millar



While creating informative posters, students learned about the dangers birds face everyday.



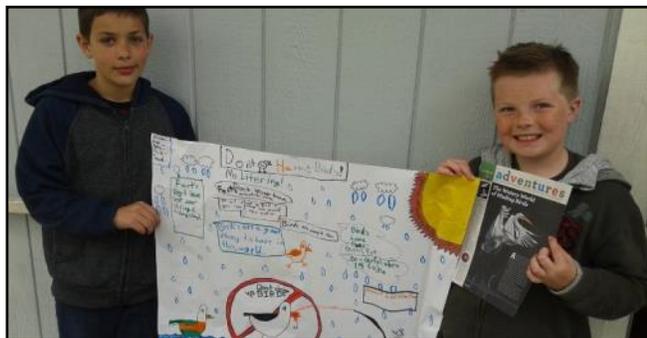
These Coyote Valley Elementary fifth graders spotted an egret during the Great Backyard Bird Count.



Students made posters warning fishers of the dangers discarded fishing line poses to waterfowl.



Students learned about birds from the Audubon website and Audubon Adventures Magazine.



These students urge the protection of birds by not littering.



Redbud Audubon board member Marilyn Waits visits with students during the Earth Day event at Woodland Community College. Marilyn leads the organization's Grebe Conservation project which provides information to both visitors and residents about the importance of Clear Lake as a Western and Clark's Grebe habitat.



Observations

By Jerry White (JRW)

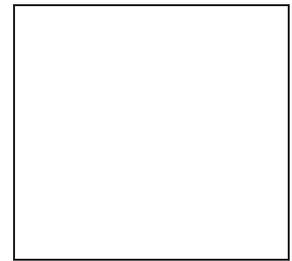
A **EURASIAN WIGEON** was found at Tule Lake on January 11th(2017) by Doug Prather. A **LONG-TAILED DUCK** was seen on Clear Lake near Clearlake Oaks on December 22nd (2016) by Tony Kurz. This was the 5th winter record. A **ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK** was reported from Morgan Valley Road on December 27th by Ryan H. Two **GREATER ROADRUNNERS** were seen near Indian Valley Reservoir on December 20th by Anje Montalvo. A **BURROWING OWL** was also seen in the same area on that date by Anje Montalvo. Eight **VAUX'S SWIFT** were seen at Rodman Slough on September 14th by Steve Stump.

We had new records for departure date and arrival date for **RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD** at Vicki Millers feeders in Clear Lake Riviera. Two Rufous Hummingbirds were seen on September 24th (departure date) and a single bird was seen on February 5th 2017 (arrival date). Jack Booth found a **RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER** in 8 Mile Valley (located in Lake County) on the Ukiah Christmas Bird Count on December 17th. Dave Woodward reported 4,000 European Starlings at his residence in Lakeport on November 16th. The **YELLOW WARBLER** found at Austin Park on the Clear Lake CBC on December 17th was only the second Winter Record for the county (JRW).



Heron chicks spotted in the nest during Heron Days.

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 the Redbud Chapter by enrolling online at www.redbudaudubon.org. Newsletter by email \$25/year; regular mail \$35/year.

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I would also like to make a contribution 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