



# *The Western Grebe*

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

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

Volume 43—Issue No. 1—September 2017

## *Kaua'i, the 5.1 Million Year Experiment: "The bird not found, and why"*

Redbud Audubon is pleased to welcome Gordon Beebe as the first program presenter for the season starting this September. Please join us to enjoy what will be an outstanding program, at our new location, the Kelseyville Presbyterian Church Social Hall, 5430 Third St. Kelseyville.

When Gordon Beebe traveled to Kaua'i in 2016, there was a species of bird he was particularly looking forward to seeing, the I'iwi.

### **SEPTEMBER MEETING**

**Thursday, Sept. 21**

- \* "The Bird Not Found and Why"
- \* Speaker: Gordon Beebe
- \* Refreshments: 7 pm  
Announcements: 7:15 pm  
Program: 7:30 pm
- \* Kelseyville Presbyterian Church Social Hall, 5430 Third St., Kelseyville

The fact that he didn't find it led him to re-search why not.

The reason is complex, best explained by examining the entire history of the island,

from its volcanic birth to the arrival of the first plant and animal species, to their adaptation and evolution in this new environment. The presentation continues with the arrival of the first humans from Polynesia, then the

*(Continued on page 2)*



*Gordon Beebe traveled to Kaua'i (above) with the special hope of seeing an I'iwi honeycreeper.*



*Along with the I'iwi, Beebe will also talk about the Red-tailed Tropic Bird and White-rumped Shama.*

**Please note our new Kelseyville Location**

# President's Message

by President Roberta Lyons



Welcome to the beginning of another season of Redbud Audubon Inc. For 41 years Redbud Audubon has been presenting educational programs, leading field trips, holding Christmas Bird Counts and commenting on environmental issues in Lake County. Our annual Heron Days/Festival has been happening for almost 20 years.

Although our group has obviously changed over the years, it is amazing how dedicated volunteers have been able to continue the mission of Audubon. If you would like to be one of those volunteers, please join us. You can do that by just giving me a call at (707) 994-2024 and leaving a message. We are asking for new board members and new committee members. Some of us are looking for some relief from the duties of the board, or at least some more sharing! – maybe we could spend more time birding and less time at our computers doing what it takes to keep an organization going.

OK, enough lecturing!

I'm very pleased to introduce a new feature of our Western Grebe newsletter. Thanks to Brad Barnwell who is contributing his beautiful photos and knowledge of our local birds' natural history, we will be presenting a "Bird of the Month," feature. This month we are featuring the Osprey, one of the most fascinating and beautiful birds we have here in the Clear Lake Basin.

Looking forward to seeing you at our upcoming Sept. 21 meeting, or hearing from you that you would like to volunteer!

## *Kaua'i, the 5.1 Million Year Experiment: "The bird not found, and why"*

*(Continued from page 1)*

subsequent arrival of Europeans and others, their manipulation of the environment, introduction of foreign animals and diseases, and the effects of all of these changes on native species.

Beebe's presentation showcases Native and introduced species of birds, other animals, plants and scenic views using photos, audio and video. Graphics and animations are included, illustrating significant events in the history of Kaua'i. The presentation concludes by highlighting the efforts of many local and international groups to preserve and protect the native species and habitats on this fragile island paradise.

Gordon Beebe is a field trip leader and website editor for Madrone Audubon Society, as well as a volunteer at Native Songbird Care in Sebastopol every breeding season. He specializes in documenting natural tropical habitats in photo, video and sound in order to share his experiences with others. He lives with his wife and faithful traveling companion Judy in Santa Rosa, CA.

### *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 whereby you may enroll via the internet. You can visit our website at [www.redbudaudubon.org](http://www.redbudaudubon.org) and click on JOIN US 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](mailto: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 Joyce Anderson



Joyce Anderson

We have been featuring our Audubon board members in our monthly Western Grebe newsletters. This September we are pleased to feature Joyce Anderson our co-chair for our education committee. Joyce also does a lot of volunteering for Redbud along with attending our board meetings, program

meetings and helping to educate the youth of Lake County about our wonderful wildlife here. Joyce became active with Redbud Audubon in 2006, became chair of Education in 2007 and was recently joined by Lisa Prather to co-chair the committee. In her words, we introduce Joyce Anderson:

I grew up in San Francisco in an apartment and the only birds in my life were the pigeons roosting in the eaves of the library across the street, the ducks and geese at Golden Gate Park, the parrot in the pet store down the street, the Western Scrub Jays in my grandmother's yard in Sebastopol, the chicken hawks (that's what we called them) which flew over my grandmother's chicken farm in Atherton and the Ostriches at the zoo.

When I moved to Lake County to teach in the Middletown School District, I began to notice the wide variety of feathered creatures -hummingbirds at our window, the scavenging crows and ravens, the janitorial vultures, and the owls calling at night. I lived a parallel life with these birds – not intentionally interfering in their world. Gradually though, I started putting out water for my woodland inhabitants, installed Bluebird boxes, created a compost pile which offered all sorts of pickings and established a fishing pond.

Living in a woodland home over the years, I rejoice in the lively fledging of Bluebirds, observing the Red-shouldered Hawk chicks nesting in the Ponderosa Pine outside my house, the resident ducklings and goslings and the visiting Ring-necked Ducks, American Widgeons, Wood Ducks, Buffleheads, Cormorants, Egrets, Coots, Red-winged Blackbirds and more all through the year. The tweets, the songs, the calls are the melodies in my day. Some birds I can

identify quickly, others I need to use my handy bird book. Being able to identify birds brings the relationship closer. When you know their names you become friends – that's what I want to bring to children in my role as Education Co-Chair—the experience of co-habiting a world with feathered friends.

## REDBUD AUDUBON BOARD OF DIRECTORS



*President:* Roberta Lyons

*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 - Roberta Lyons
- Webmaster – Alex Dorsaneo
- Grebe Conservation—Marilyn Waits

**To contact a board member:**

**Phone 707/ 263-8030**

**Email: [redbud.audubon@gmail.com](mailto:redbud.audubon@gmail.com)**



# BIRD OF THE MONTH

## *Osprey*

*Photos and Story by Brad Barnwell*

Once again it's time to say goodbye to the Osprey as another breeding season comes to an end. With the beginning of the month of August comes the start of the fall migration and like it or not the Osprey will begin to leave Lake County.

Their stay begins around Valentine's Day when we often see a lone Osprey magically appear, perched at what stood as an abandoned nest last Fall and Winter. Within a matter of days the mate is by his side and the courtship cycle begins anew. The old nest is refurbished or in some cases a new nest is built. Courtship rituals start and sometime in May the mating begins. Shortly, two to four eggs are laid, then incubated for 34 to 40 days when the chicks begin to hatch.

The female stays on the nest with the newborns while the male brings food to the nest. After about 10 days the female may share nest duties with the male while she hunts for food. After 49 to 56 days (sometime in late July or early August) the juvenile Osprey start to take short flights only to return to the nest to be fed by the adult male. It is during this peri-

od of experimental flight that the female adult may begin her migration south leaving "Dad" on his own to take care of the "Kids."

Over the next month the juvenile birds learn to fend for themselves, and like it or not, Dad will leave the kids and head south to southern California, Central America and maybe even South America. The juvenile birds will follow their parents in September and October and if we are lucky there will be one or two Osprey left in Lake County for the Christmas Bird Count in December.

The parents will hopefully return to Lake County the following February and pair-up at the old nest site while the juveniles will not return until their second or third year. Should two-year-olds return their first attempt at the mating game may involve pairing with a mate and building a nest, but no breeding activity normally occurs. When third year birds return to their nesting area in February 2020 and begin courtship, mating and the nest building process, they will hopefully produce a new family of Osprey.



*Osprey typically begin mating in May, and the female lays two to four eggs, incubating them for 34 to 40 days.*



*The male osprey is usually left to take care of juvenile osprey in July or August, when the female migrates south.*

## ***New osprey pole erected at Land Trust's Rodman Preserve***

Osprey nesting platforms are common in Lake County, but a new platform just installed in late May is unique. It is located near a hill on the Rodman Preserve where visitors can look down into the nest to watch young osprey chicks being fed and cared for by their parents during the spring nesting season.

The platform was constructed by Redbud Audubon volunteers and erected by Audubon and Lake County Land Trust volunteers on the Land Trust's Rodman Preserve near the Lucerne Cutoff exit from Hwy. 29. The new platform will hopefully attract a pair of osprey next spring to build a nest on it and raise a brood

of young birds. When completed, osprey nests can measure two yards in diameter and weigh 300 lbs. The pair usually return to the same nest year after year.

Osprey are large predator birds whose diet consist mainly of fish, explaining their common presence around Clear Lake. Adults are about 26 inches in length with a wingspan of 60-70 inches. They have a white head with a dark mask across the eyes. The upper part of their body is glossy brown, with a white breast. Their call is a series of sharp, annoyed whistles.

Guided hikes at Rodman Preserve are once again being offered on the first and fourth Saturdays of the month through the summer, starting at 8 a.m. Meet at the Rodman Preserve nature center at the corner of Westlake Road and The Nice-Lucerne Cutoff. The preserve entry is to the immediate right after you turn left on Westlake. For more info about the Lake County Land Trust, go to [www.lakecountylandtrust.org](http://www.lakecountylandtrust.org) and for Redbud Audubon: [www.redbudaudubon.org](http://www.redbudaudubon.org).



*Pictured after raising the new osprey pole at the Rodman Preserve: Larry Martinelli, left; Tom McFarling, Kerry Shaver and Brad Barnwell. Not pictured: Vivian McFarling and Beth Shaver. Photo credit: Beth Shaver*

## ***Field trip to Rodman Preserve near Upper Lake Hosted by Redbud Audubon and Lake County Land Trust***

Please join us for our first field trip of the year on Saturday, Sept. 23 at the Rodman Preserve, 6350 Westlake Rd. off of the Nice Lucerne Cutoff. The preserve features Oak and wetland habitats and this interesting outing usually includes species that inhabit the wetlands along Rodman Slough including herons and migratory waterfowl.

There is also other interesting wildlife and many songbirds including flycatchers, woodpeckers, sparrows and blue birds. Please wear sturdy shoes and bring water, binoculars and a lunch if you would like to enjoy lunch on the Rodman Preserve nature center porch. The walk is approximately one and one-half miles on mostly level terrain with some short uphill areas. Please do not confuse the Rodman Preserve with the County's Rodman Slough Park.

The preserve is on Westlake Dr. which is a left turn after you have exited onto the Nice Lucerne Cutoff. If you go as far as the bridge crossing Rodman Slough you have missed it. The County Park is at the bridge; the Preserve is on Westlake Dr.

## ***Welcome new and returning members***

Welcome new and returning members: Joan Allen, Pope Valley; Diane Bajada, Kelseyville; Candace BlackStone, Lakeport; Ron Green, Lower Lake; David Kestenbaum, Kelseyville; Diane McClellan, Lakeport; Phyllis Murphey, Lower Lake; Gail Rosander, Kelseyville; Ruth Shriber, Lakeport; Sandy and Bill Dean, Brentwood; Bill Trammell, Clearlake Oaks; Cheryl Abbott, Hidden Valley Lake; Ramona Teagarden, Upper Lake; Barbara Bridges, Lakeport; Steve Garoutte, Lower Lake; Ann Nolasco, Lower Lake; Carol Hanson, Hidden Valley Lake; Gene Borissenko, Cobb; Ashlyn Hansen, Lakeport; Kathleen Sullivan, Lakeport; Melaney Chamberlain, Lucerne and Dr. Christine Bolla, Stonyford.

## ***Field Trip Calendar 2017-2018***

Following is the field trip calendar for the Redbud Audubon Society for 2017-2018. Prior to each field trip a description will appear in our newsletter, 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.

### ***September 23***

Lake County Land Trust's  
Rodman Preserve  
6350 Westlake Rd. Upper Lake

### ***October 21***

Anderson Marsh State Historic Park  
Highway 53, Lower Lake

### ***November 18***

Shollenberger Park  
1400 Cedar Lane, Petaluma

### ***December TBA***

Christmas Bird Count

### ***January 20***

Colusa and Sacramento  
National Wildlife Refuges

### ***February 17***

Clear Lake State Park  
Soda Bay Road, Kelseyville

### ***March 17***

McKerricker State Park  
Highway 1, Fort Bragg

### ***April and May***

TBA



Visitors enjoying a walk at the Rodman Preserve.



Acorn Woodpeckers at their cache tree at the Rodman Preserve.

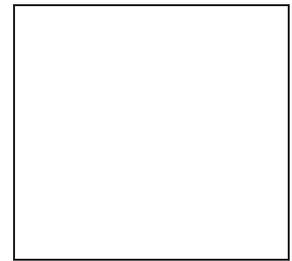
## 2016-17 Chapter Financial Report

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc

July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017

Revenues	Audubon Membership Revenue	\$1,377
	Contributions	2,910
	Grebe Conservation Grant	20,079
	Educational Programs & Events (Heron Days)	8,676
	Sales (books, booth sales)	1,991
	Interest	<u>77</u>
	<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$35,110</b>
	Cost of Goods Sold	<u>\$1,162</u>
	<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$33,948</b>
	Expenditures	Administration
Educational Programs & Events		4,054
Grebe Conservation Grant		19,304
Conservation (Osprey Pole)		661
Newsletter Printing/Mailing		2,437
Marketing Outreach		442
Storage rental		<u>1,182</u>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>		<b>\$31,219</b>
<b>Net Income in Operating Funds</b>		<b>\$2,729</b>
Beginning Retained Earnings 6/30/16		\$42,488
Net Income 2015-2016	2,729	
Ending Retained Earnings 6/30/17	\$45,217	
Assets	Cash & Equivalents (Checking, Savings, etc)	\$44,598
	Inventory Held for Sale	734
	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$45,332</b>
Liabilities	Accounts Payable	114
	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$114</b>
Funds	Restricted (Grebe Conservation Fund)	0
	Reserved (Committed to Specific Programs)	2,181
	Unreserved (Not Committed)	42,417
	<b>Total Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$44,598</b>

**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.

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You have the option of joining the Redbud Chapter by enrolling online at [www.redbudaudubon.org](http://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*