



The Western Grebe

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

www.redbudaudubon.org

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Salton Sea: a Looming Crisis

The Redbud Audubon Society is pleased to announce a presentation by Andrea Jones, Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon California, at our upcoming meeting on Oct. 18, at the Kelseyville Presbyterian Church Social Hall, 5430 Third St., Kelseyville, starting at 7 p.m.

The Salton Sea, an inland saline lake covering 350 square miles in southern California, is a critically endangered Important Bird Area that hosts two-thirds of California's bird species. For years, irrigation run-

OCTOBER MEETING

Thursday, Oct. 18

- **Topic:** Salton Sea: a Looming Crisis
- **Speaker:** Andrea Jones, Director of Bird Conservation, Audubon California
- **Refreshments:** 7 pm
- **Announcements & Program:** 7:15 pm
- **Location:** Presbyterian Church Social Hall, 5430 Third St., Kelseyville.

off water in the Imperial Valley fed the sea. But in 2003, a deal was struck to divert more than 400,000 acre-feet of water that once flowed to the Salton Sea to San Diego and Coachella for urban uses. In 2018, water provided to the Salton Sea as mitigation for the 2003 deal will be shut off, meaning the sea will shrink even further.



White Pelicans are just one of the two-thirds of California's bird species that flock to the Salton Sea.



Stagnant water at the Salton Sea. When the water dries up, toxic dust that is left behind is swept up by winds, sickening people living in its path.

In the next 15 years, the Salton Sea will lose 40% of the water currently flowing into it. It will drop by 20 feet and expose 100 square miles of dust-generating lake bottom. The region's strong winds will create contaminated dust clouds, worsening the

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President's Message

by President Roberta Lyons

National Audubon magazine offers interesting and helpful reading



As a member of the National Audubon Society, I receive the organization's *Audubon*, magazine. The publication comes out quarterly (Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter) and when it arrives in my mailbox I am never disappointed.

As some of you may know, 2018 has been dubbed "The Year of the Bird," and the magazine reveals just how important Audubon is in defending birds on a national, statewide and yes, local, level. Of particular interest to me in this Fall issue is the article titled "Safety By Design," which talks about the variety of ways that building design, especially of windows, can reduce the number of often fatal bird strikes that occur on large office buildings and even plate glass home windows.

The article in the current magazine reports on many different techniques for preventing bird strikes. These techniques don't look bad or "impede the view." Some office buildings have used grids of dots as well as things like etched

glass, "fritted glass panels" (they look like glass with stripes on it) and also a special UV coating for windows that can reflect outlines of objects inside – all to create bird-friendly windows.

This is just one of the many reasons why I encourage a membership in National Audubon. As we try to explain in this newsletter, we do offer chapter only memberships. The difference is, we get almost all of the money for a "chapter only," membership. If you become a member of National, we get a small percentage of your membership, but, you will receive the quarterly magazine and receive membership billing from National Audubon.

As a member of National, you are automatically assigned to Redbud Audubon and we receive your mailing information in order to send you our monthly newsletter during the months that we are active. If you opt for a "chapter only," membership, you must do it via our "Member Planet," program through our website: www.redbudaudubon.org. We cannot do chapter only members any other way as we do not have the capacity to bill you on a yearly basis. We also encourage "donations" to Redbud Audubon.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming program meeting. It is going to be an interesting look at issues involving the Salton Sea.

Norman Kikuchi returning by popular demand!

Dr. Norman Kikuchi's talk on Birds of Alaska last month generated great enthusiasm from the audience for both his superb photographs and depth of birding knowledge. As a consequence he has been invited to

return for our Sept.19, 2019 meeting. His talk will be on "Birds of the American West" showcasing birding hotspots in New Mexico, Oregon and California. Mark your calendar now.

Please provide us with your email

A number of our members have emailed us at redbud.audubon@gmail.com to opt to receive our newsletter, "The Western Grebe" by email as opposed to receiving it by mail.

Not only do you help save a tree, you help us save on expenses and energy in sending it to you by regular mail, and it comes to you in color versus the black and white mailed version. If you have been meaning to, but haven't yet done so, take the minute or two out of your time to do so.

Even if you still prefer to receive the mailed version of the "Grebe", we would like to have your email for our records. Once in a while, we send out emails to our members about important events or bird sightings that may be of interest. You are also welcome to email us with any information that you think would be of interest to the membership. Questions requiring expert opinions are forwarded to the appropriate persons.

Also, we rely on our members for whom we have emails to help us with any volunteer efforts that we may have. Often it just means a couple of hours of your time. Whether you have areas of expertise or birding skills that you can share, or are willing to help us with general staffing of booths, setting up booths and transporting materials, we welcome your participation.

So please give us your email address by sending it to redbud.audubon@gmail.com, and, if you wish, let us know in what areas you feel you can help.

Welcome new and returning members

Wendy Overin, Clearlake Oaks; Dennis Oliver, Kelseyville; Janice Pilcher, Lakeport; Janis Irvin, Middletown; Jeanette Knight, Cobb; Malcom Hitchinson, Lower Lake; Marilyn Waits, Kelseyville; Sandra Wolfe, Lakeport; Joyce Northrup, Lakeport; Henry Bornstein, Clearlake; Barbara Renshaw, Clearlake; Pamela Roscoe, Clearlake; Jon Ballesteros, Kelseyville; Carrie Hanks, Kelseyville; Faith Rigolosi, Lakeport; Bill Pray, Lakeport, and Caryn Bender, Lucerne.

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Phone 707/ 263-8030

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This pair of osprey nested during the past summer at the County Park. That tree has since been cut down and Redbud Audubon is working with partner organizations to install a nesting platform. Photo by Brad Barnwell.

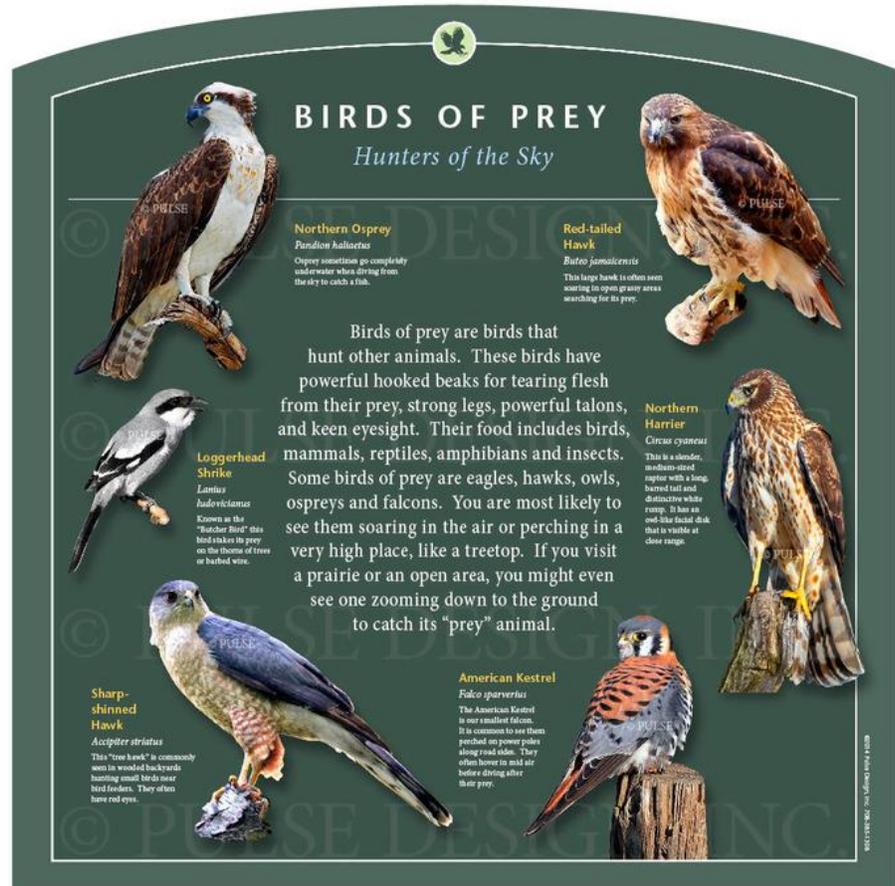
Plan for New Osprey Nest Platform and Osprey Interpretive Sign at Lakeside County Park

Redbud Audubon is working with partner organizations to install a new nesting platform for the osprey family that has been building its nest for several years at the top of a decaying tree at Lakeside County Park.

Because the tree was dying and had to be removed, Audubon has reached out to several groups to cooperatively replace the osprey pole and install an interpretive sign explaining about osprey in Lake County and their nesting and parenting behaviors.

A separate sign will list the participating organizations which as of now include: Redbud Audubon, County of Lake Parks Department and Calpine Corporation.

The project goals are to draw more people to visit Lakeside Park and to educate the public about these interesting birds.



Audubon's 2019 Heron Days Needs Pontoon Boats and Drivers

By Marilyn Waits

For 23 years, Redbud Audubon has provided Lake County residents and visitors a unique educational nature experience watching the springtime courtship, nesting, and parenting behaviors of some of the county's most beautiful and interesting birds. By taking people out on Clear Lake in pontoon boats with an experienced Audubon guide on board, Redbud gives the public a close-up view of nature. Heron Days is the chapter's only major fund-raising event to support its conservation and education activities throughout the year.

Heron Days would not be possible without the volunteer help of local pontoon boat-owners and drivers who are willing to go through the procedure of becoming licensed. Their generous gift of time, skills, and equipment is essential to the event. In Heron Days' two decades, more than 30 boat-owners and drivers have participated in the bird tours. Audubon provides liability insurance coverage for the boat-owners and reimburses for fuel.

In recent years, the number of boats and drivers declined. Owners sold their boats, people moved away, or boats became non-operational. **Redbud is at the point that, without more boats, the future of Heron Days is threatened.**

That is why we are reaching out broadly to the Lake County community seeking additional boats and drivers.

Heron Days is held on two spring weekends at opposite ends of Clear Lake. Dates and locations for 2019 are:

**April 27-28,
Lakeside County Park, Kelseyville**

**May 4-5,
Clear Lake Campground, Lower Lake**

The 90-minute tours are scheduled from 8:00 am to 1:30 pm. Boats are assigned to the location closest to where they are moored. The tours travel Clear Lake's shoreline and channels to view tree-top nest colonies of herons, egrets, and cormorants, and the courtship displays of "dancing" grebe pairs.



Introduce the public to the waterbirds of Clear Lake by volunteering your pontoon boat, experienced boat driving—or both, at the upcoming Heron Days.



Audubon provides liability insurance for boat-owners and fuel reimbursement.

If you own a pontoon boat in good condition and/or you are an experienced boat driver (or you know a friend or neighbor who is), please contact Redbud Audubon to request that we email you the information sheet describing exactly what is involved in this volunteer work. Requesting the information is not a commitment to participate, just to learn the details. Redbud assists drivers who need to obtain the necessary state license from the Department of Boating and Waterways.

Please email president@redbudaudubon.org or call the chapter at 263-8030. Thank you for your help to enable Redbud Audubon to continue holding Heron Days.



Getting ready to head out at Indian Meadows.

Field Trip Information Join us at Camp Indian Meadows For October field trip

Please join the Redbud Audubon Society for our October field trip on Saturday, Oct. 20 starting at 9 a.m. at Camp Indian Meadows 12995 Bottlerock Rd. The best place to meet for this event is the cemetery on Bottlerock Road before you get to Camp Indian Meadows if you are coming on Bottlerock from Highway 29 out of Kelseyville.

This will be an enjoyable walk with possible viewing of migrating songbirds, raptors, and woodpeckers. This area was not burned and so it is safe to enter. If you have any questions call Pat Harmon at 263-4977 or Roberta Lyons, 994-2024. More information will be available at the Audubon meeting.



Birders can expect to see migrating songbirds, raptors, and woodpeckers on the walk.



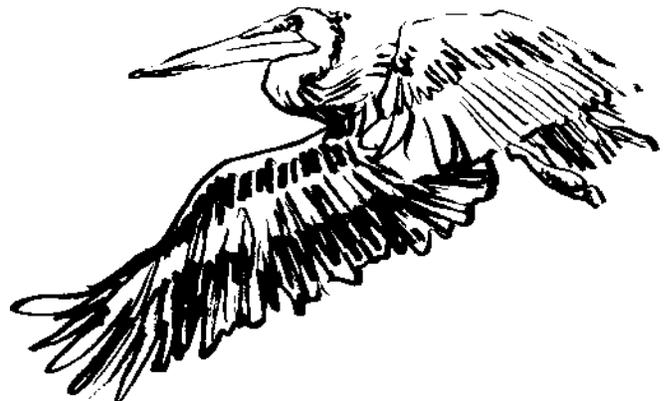
Observations

By Jerry White (JRW)

A LEAST BITTERN was reported from Rodman Slough on May 26th, 2018 by Will Anderson. Four *BLACK-NECKED STILTS* were at Borax Lake on May 6th (Floyd Hayes). Roberta Lyons saw a *GREATER ROADRUNNER* on Highway 29 near Lower Lake on August 20th. *BLACK-CHINNED AND CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRDS* were reported again this spring by Vicki Miller at her feeders during the months of April and May. An *AMERICAN DIPPER* was at Soda Creek near the Eel River on June 22nd (George Chaniot). *A NORTHERN PARULA* was found in the Cobb Mountain area on May 26th by Will Anderson. This represents the 3rd county record for this species.

Legislative support needed!

Some of our members who are also members of National Audubon may receive email from National Audubon 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 representative 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.



Field Trip Calendar

Following is the field trip calendar for the Redbud Audubon Society for 2018 – 2019. 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 our field trip chair, Pat Harmon at (707) 263-4977 for information. Outings start at 9 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

October 20

Indian Meadows
Bottle Rock Rd. Cobb

November 17

Anderson Marsh State Historic Park
Highway 53, Lower Lake

December 15
Christmas Bird Count

January 19

Colusa and Sacramento
National Wildlife Refuges

February 23

Clear Lake State Park
Soda Bay Rd. Kelseyville

March 23

Lakeside County Park, Kelseyville

April

Heron Days

May 18

Potter Valley

Salton Sea

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already poor air quality in the region. Salinity in the lake will triple, eliminating its fishery and most invertebrates that provide value to birds.

Our speaker Andrea Jones is Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon California. She will highlight why the Salton Sea is so important that over 400 species of birds use its habitats.

She will also describe which species are most threatened by a changing Sea. Although the State of California agreed in 2003 to provide for habitat restoration and dust mitigation, the state has yet to follow through on these promises, and the situation at the Salton Sea continues to worsen as this year's deadline looms with no solution.

Jones will discuss past efforts to "restore" the sea and describe how Audubon is engaging currently in a new solution for the Salton Sea that will be beneficial to both birds and people.

For the past 12 years, Andrea Jones has led conservation programs and worked with staff and the network of Audubon chapters across the state to implement conservation projects at high priority Important Bird Areas (IBAs). She oversees Audubon's efforts in priority bird species and serves as the spokeswoman for bird conservation across California.

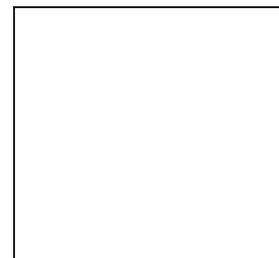
Prior to Audubon California, Andrea worked at Massachusetts Audubon where she served as the Director of the Coastal Waterbird Program. Andrea received her M.S. in Wildlife Conservation/Ornithology and her B.S. in Wildlife Biology and Management from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She is a past board member of Morro Coast Audubon and currently resides in the East Bay of San Francisco.

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 must enroll via the internet. You can visit our website at www.redbudaudubon.org and click on membership

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 and letting us know. If you prefer to receive the newsletter by mail, please consider donating \$10 - \$15 to Redbud Audubon.

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 just joining 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 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

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