



The Western Grebe

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

www.redbudaudubon.org

Volume 42—Issue No. 8—APRIL 2017

“BATS!” with Rachael Long

Bats will soon be migrating back to Northern California from their overwintering sites from as far away as Mexico. Others will be waking up from a long winter's sleep, after hibernating in caves.

We have 26 species of bats in our state and most all are insectivorous. Their voracious appetite for bugs make them superb predators of insect pests. Farmers and garden enthusiasts who want their help in controlling pests are putting up boxes to attract colonies of bats. The secret to success is to put the bat boxes on the side of a building, at least ten feet high, where it gets morning sun and afternoon shade to ensure occupancy.

Bats are some of the most interesting mammals; contrary to popular belief, bats are not blind, they

years. While bats can carry rabies, this disease is preventable. Never pick up a bat with bare hands, as they'll bite in self-defense, and always vaccinate your pets.

Continued on page 2



Pallid bat, making the world a better place one grasshopper at a time.

APRIL MEETING

Thursday, APRIL 20

- * “BATS” with Rachael Long
- * Refreshments: 7 pm
Announcements: 7:15 pm
Program: 7:30 pm
- * Methodist Church Social Hall,
16255 Second St, Lower Lake

do not get tangled in your hair, they're not flying rats, and they're not aggressive. Instead they echolocate to see in the dark, they're very shy and cute, and they live for over 30



Rachael Long uses her special bat detector with microphone to study bats in the area.

President's Message

by Co-President Bonnie Thompson

Looking forward to *Bats!* and Heron Days

Spring is definitely here! Longer and warmer days and nights! Waking up to mockingbird song and going to sleep with the peepers! Was that a BAT that whizzed by the other night?

Speaking of *BATS!*, Redbud Audubon is delighted to have Rachael Long from the University of California Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources speak on one of her areas of expertise, *BATS!* This should be a fun and informative evening that I am looking forward to.

Also on our agenda for a busy month is Heron Days! Thanks to the many volunteers for putting together this annual exciting opportunity to see up close the nature we have been gifted with on beautiful Clear Lake. Please see the ad in this newsletter and register before we are sold out.

Finally, on a sad note, I will be leaving this beautiful paradise. I have met so many wonderful individuals through my involvement with our local chapter of Redbud Audubon and want to thank you for your friendship and wealth of knowledge over the past several years. Please consider volunteering your time to help our chapter. Does the area of website updating interest you? Could you help with publicity? And to think, you can do this from the comfort of your home and without being a bird "expert"! Please see the article in this newsletter for more info.

See you when we learn more about *BATS!* and maybe on a boat tour during Heron Days 2017!

Welcome new and returning members:

James and Paulette Jasmin, Hidden Valley Lake; Jackie and Jim Spahr, Lakeport; Lucinda Wilson, Kelseyville; Myra Bamberger, Kelseyville; Peggy Campbell, Lakeport; Joyce Lashbrook, Lower Lake; Sharon Reynolds, Clearlake; Carolyn Ruttan, Lower Lake.

This Year's Heron Days

By Vivian McFarling

This year's Heron Days will take place over two days at each of the locations listed below. The 90-minute tours will leave between the hours of 8:00 am and 11:00 am. The tour fee is \$30. If the level of the water in Cache Creek comes down enough to permit Ed Legan to take his boat under the bridge east of Hwy 53, he will be providing 2-hour tours down the creek, and perhaps to the dam. His tours will be \$45.

Tours from **Lakeside County Park** will take place on Saturday and Sunday, **April 29 and 30**. April 29 is also the date of the Wildflower Brunch at Clear Lake State Park, so you can take advantage of both events on the same day.

The dates for **Shady Acres Campground** are Saturday and Sunday, **May 6 and 7**. Some of you may want to camp there the night before or after. RVs are welcome. Shady Acres Campground is right on Cache Creek north of Anderson Marsh State Park.

Registration opened March 10 through our Redbud Audubon website, www.redubdaudubon.org. Mark your calendars.

"BATS!" with Rachael Long

Continued from page 1

Some of the threats to bats include wind turbines and white-nose syndrome, a fungal disease that attacks bats.

Rachael Long, Farm Advisor with the UC Cooperative Extension Service in the Sacramento Valley, has been studying bats



and their impacts on pest control in crops for nearly 25-years. She is a graduate of UC Berkeley and UC Davis. She lives on a farm and is the author of *The Black Rock Desert Trilogy*, a children's chapter book series that brings kids into a world of bats in a highly adventurous way. Join her for an engaging evening to learn more about the natural history of bats in our state.

Meet Board Member Nicola Selph



Redbud Audubon treasurer, Nicola Selph, moved to Lake county full time in 2012. She lives with her husband, Ventura Negrete, in Soda Bay. She retired early from E&J Gallo Winery in Modesto, where she worked in the Information Technology department.

Nicola Selph Nicola joined the Redbud Audubon Society board as treasurer in the 2013-2014 fiscal year after it was found out she was once treasurer of Golden Gate Audubon. Born in San Francisco, she grew up in the Bay Area, and graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in Biochemistry. After going to graduate school at Michigan State University, where she took up birding as a hobby, she realized what a treasure we have here in California for both resident and migrating birds.

Calling for Volunteers

If you are interested in:

- Volunteering for one of our many committees; or,
- Have computer skills and are able to update our website and Facebook page; or,
- Are interested in helping with publicity with our local news outlets.

Please check out our list of Standing Committees in this newsletter and step forward! You may email us at Redbud.Audubon@gmail.com with questions you might have about our various committees.

We invite you to attend the board meeting on Thursday, April 20, 5:30 pm, at DJ's Pizza in Lower Lake before the evening program on *BATS!* Meet the current board members and learn more. Please RSVP to the email if you are interested!

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

Legislative help STILL needed!

As Earth Day, April 22, 2017 approaches, we are reminded that we are stewards of our environment. Your voice is important! Our voices together can make a difference.

When you receive a “Call to ACTION” from National Audubon, California Audubon, or Redbud Audubon, please respond. The protection of our bird life is extremely important at this time. You may have missed this “Call to ACTION”, but the story is worth sharing again.

Did You Know...

The Brown Pelican may not have enough food to eat. California Audubon asked on March 29, 2017 that an email be sent asking fisheries managers to establish science-based overfishing limits that protect birds and other wildlife.

Northern anchovy is the number one seabird food on much of the West Coast. Since 2009, anchovy have been scarce or absent in the system. Brown Pelican breeding has been heavily influenced by the decline of this fish, and new studies show other marine birds are having difficulty finding anchovy, as well.

Federal fishery managers should take seriously the collapsed stock and set fishing limits accordingly. This month, Pacific Fisheries Management Council will consider establishing a new overfishing limit for anchovies in response to recent information about the status of the stock. Science-based catch limits that account for the status of the stock as well as the needs of dependent predators will help ensure that anchovies are plentiful enough to fulfill their crucial role in the Pacific food web.

Field Trip Calendar 2016-2017

Following is the field trip calendar for the Redbud Audubon Society for 2016/17. 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.

April 29-30; May 6-7: Heron Days



On the look out for birds on the Clear Lake State Park walkway. 50 species were seen.



An interesting bird is spotted from the beach.



Setting up the tripods at a likely busy bird spot.

March Bird Walk at Clear Lake State Park

Once again the weather co-operated with our monthly field trip. Eleven birders enjoyed a great day at Clear Lake State Park.

Fifty species of birds were seen. Highlights were great sightings of a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers investigating nest cavities and a vicious fight between two male Tree Swallows in the water. There were a lot of anglers fishing for crappie.

There is a great deal of damage in the park due to the flooding and the crews are working diligently to clean up and repair.

Update from the Schools

This little girl showed up on our bird walk at Terrace Middle School on March 27. We first saw this bird last year but couldn't get a clear picture. Thanks to the excellent photography skills of Doug Prather, we have a beautiful picture of this



Northern Flicker

Northern Flicker. We were able to have a discussion about mutations and adaptations. We watched this bird as it used its extra long beak and picked its way through the bark in the play-

ground looking for ants and other insects; but mostly, ants. This impressed the kids and gave them a new appreciation for the colorful bird as many of them have been plagued by red-ant bites already this year.

Other high points along our walk included mating displays of European starlings and Brewer's black-birds, as well as territorial disputes between yellow-rumped warblers. The favorite display was that of the killdeer couple who set their nest in the middle of the playground. The female laid her body down and spread out all her feathers, then proceeded to crawl on the ground in an attempt to lure us away from the nest. Sadly, we were unable to locate the nest until after recess (the nest did not survive). What impressed the kids was how well hidden the eggs were and what good actresses birds can be!

April 22 is Earth Day!

The First Earth Day

Before 1970, a factory could spew black toxic clouds into the air or dump tons of toxic waste into a nearby stream. They could not be taken to court to stop it. There were no legal or regulatory mechanisms to protect our environment.

In spring 1970, Senator Gaylord Nelson created Earth Day to force this issue onto the national agenda. Twenty million Americans demonstrated and it worked! In December 1970, Congress authorized the creation the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. **Earth Day** is now an annual event celebrated on April 22. What will you do for Earth Day 2017?

<https://www.epa.gov/history/epa-history-earth-day> and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earth_Day, Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

HERON DAYS



TWO WEEKEND EVENT

LAKESIDE COUNTY PARK, Kelseyville

Saturday & Sunday, April 29* & 30
90 minute tours leave between
8 am-11 am. Cost: \$30

**Saturday, April 29 is also the
date of the Wildflower Brunch
at Clear Lake State Park*



SHADY ACRES CAMPGROUND, Clearlake

Saturday & Sunday, May 6 & 7
90 minute tours leave between
8 am-11 am. Cost: \$30

Cache Creek water levels
permitting, there will be a two
hour tour down the creek, and
possibly to the dam. Cost \$45

Register through the
Redbud Audubon website,
www.redubdaudubon.org.

For further information please call
Evelyn Wachtel at (510)501-5375

Redbud Audubon
PO Box 5780
Clearlake, CA 95422

US Postage Paid
Clearlake, CA
Permit No. 29



**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

Connecting People with Nature since 1974

Printed on Recycled Paper