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 chapter on North American venomous reptile bites for the 7th 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.
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, Earred 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 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 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. 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...

Redbud Audubon
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Treasurer: Nicola Selph Secretary: Marina Vedovi

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Christmas Bird Count – Brad and Kathy Barnwell
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Field Trips - Pat Harmon
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Newsletter Production - Jim Scholz
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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

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. Thank you!
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, and click on the Heron Days tab. This is our 21st 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
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

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!”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Peregrine Falcon</td>
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<td>Wood Duck</td>
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<td>Black Phoebe</td>
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<td>Mallard</td>
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<td>Steller's Jay</td>
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<td>Ruddy Duck</td>
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<td>Tree Swallow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern Flicker</td>
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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

A Great day 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!”

Species | Count |
---------|-------|
Canada Goose | 6     |
Wood Duck | 5     |
Mallard | 4     |
Lesser Scaup | 1     |
Bufflehead | 11    |
Common Merganser | 2     |
Ruddy Duck | 2     |
Wild Turkey | 17    |
Pied-billed Grebe | 11    |
Eared Grebe | 1     |
Double-crested Cormorant | 11    |
American White Pelican | 277   |
Great Blue Heron | 2     |
Black-crowned Night-Heron | 2     |
Turkey Vulture | 12    |
Osprey | 2     |
Sharp-shinned Hawk | 1     |
Red-shouldered Hawk | 2     |
Red-tailed Hawk | 2     |
American Coot | 15    |
Spotted Sandpiper | 1     |
Anna’s Hummingbird | 4     |
Belted Kingfish | 1     |
Acorn Woodpecker | 8     |
Nuttall’s Woodpecker | 1     |
Downy Woodpecker | 1     |
Northern Flicker | 7     |
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.

☐ 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

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Mailing Address __________________________________ City_________________________ State____ Zip ______

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