



The Western Grebe

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

www.redbudaudubon.org

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California Spiders

Redbud Audubon is excited about the upcoming Oct. 19 program entitled California Spiders, to be presented by Dr. Tim Manolis of Sacramento. Manolis will begin with an introduction to spider biology and the types of spiders that occur in California. If you don't know much about jumping spiders, be warned – learning more about them can become an addictive pleasure!

Among other amazing things, they stalk prey – insects and other spiders – like cats, using vision that rivals that of many birds

and mammals. Male jumpers can be brilliantly colored with courtship displays rivaling those of birds-of-paradise.

Some species are remarkable mimics of ants, wasps, or beetles. Intrigued?

Plan to attend

this spider program on Oct. 19 to learn more about spider biology, California species, and jumping spiders.

Dr. Manolis will present photos of these extraordinary creatures and answer all your

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OCTOBER MEETING

Thursday, Oct. 19

- * **Topic:** "California Spiders"
- * **Speaker:** Dr. Tim Manolis
- * **Refreshments:** 7 pm
- * **Announcements:** 7:15 pm
- * **Program:** 7:30 pm
- * **Location:** Kelseyville
Presbyterian Church
Social Hall, 5430 Third St.,
Kelseyville



Colonus hesperus having a tasty lunch on the fly.



Green Lynx spider is a ferocious mother who keeps watchful eyes on her egg sac, protecting it from attackers and even removing it to safety, if need be.

President's Message

by President Roberta Lyons



Redbud Audubon's Local Conservation work

Some of our Redbud Audubon members who are also members of National probably receive national and state Audubon posts publicizing different conservation issues. Members may not realize

that your local Redbud Audubon Society is also involved in planning and permitting issues in Lake County. Evelyn Wachtel and I are co-chairs of the Redbud Audubon Conservation committee. We receive the "Requests for Review for Sufficiency for Initial Studies" through the County of Lake's Community Development Department.

This allows Redbud Audubon to officially comment on projects and to even request a public hearing on the development if one is not scheduled. We often work with the local Sierra Club, one of the other environmental organizations that is receiving these documents. We meet with developers to discuss our concerns and hopefully come to a compromise.

It will come as no surprise that most of these reviews lately have been for proposed vineyard developments that involve conversion of native chaparral and other vegetation such as Black Oak and Blue Oak woodland.

We are fortunate that Lake County has a grading ordinance. Something that was hammered out decades ago to deal with these issues. Any clearing of native vegetation of more than 10,000 square feet requires a grading permit of some type. The permits are based on steepness of slope, soil type and type of vegetation. Conversion from one agricultural use to another, such as walnuts to vineyards does not require a permit.

One of the things I find distressing is the undervaluing of our unique chaparral plant community. These vast areas of native habitat are often

derisively referred to as "just brush," and are seen to have no value by many local residents. In reality chaparral provides cover and habitat for birds like the California Thrasher, wrens, jays, towhees and others. The chaparral provides beautiful scenic coverage on the hills surrounding Clear Lake and many areas include rare and threatened plants.

Our Black Oak forests are among the loveliest forests in California. The leaves change color with the season and as with the chaparral, the forests provide vital food, cover, and corridors for numerous mammals, birds, and reptiles.

We have been successful in working with many of the vineyard developers in requiring habitat corridors for animals. Often people don't think about this issue. Many reports state that "gates will be installed to release any trapped animals," but nothing is noted about not fencing off huge blocks of acreage that prevent the passing of many mammals, including bear and deer. We are encouraging planners to include this requirement in future permits. This is similar to the issue that is being considered with the proposed wall along the Mexican border where the structure will make it impossible for cougars, bear, deer and other animals to access vital areas of their ranges for feeding and breeding.

It is true that much of the county's chaparral is too thick in many places – probably as a result of too much fire suppression. Of course now housing developments are built next to or within the chaparral communities so any type of control burns are impossible. That is why a recent grant has allowed for the clearing of a fire break around the Riviera subdivisions. This is an obvious necessity. No one is going to argue with the need to make homes and people as safe as possible. Vineyards can also provide this fire safety, serving as crucial fire breaks in populated areas. Vineyards and wineries are also an important part of this county's economy so we don't want to give the impression that we are "anti-vineyard."

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Meet board member and president, Roberta Lyons

A native of Washington State, Roberta grew up in Jago Bay on Clear Lake. Her family moved to the area in 1955 when they purchased the *Clear Lake Observer-American* which they published for over 30 years. Roberta continued in the newspaper business, including helping to run another family paper in Cloverdale, the *Cloverdale Reveille*, until the family sold that paper in 2013.

Roberta attended Lower Lake schools throughout elementary and secondary school. She attended Santa Rosa Junior College, Yuba Community College, and received a BA degree in liberal studies from Sonoma State University. She lives at the family home in Jago Bay with her husband, Harry Lyons, Professor Emeritus at Yuba College. Their daughter Kate graduated with a Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Growing up on the shores of Clear Lake, Roberta developed a deep appreciation for the natural beauty of the lake and surrounding terrain of Lake County. In her work at the *Clear Lake Observer-American*, she reported on such issues as diminishing wetlands around Clear Lake, the impact of geothermal development on Cobb Mountain watersheds, and various city and county issues. The *Clear Lake Observer-American* was supportive of the acquisition of Anderson Marsh State Historic Park. Local activist, archeologist John Parker, used articles published in the *Clear*

Lake Observer-American to prove the case for the acquisition at the state level. Along with being president of the Redbud Audubon Society, Roberta is

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REDBUD AUDUBON BOARD OF DIRECTORS



President: Roberta Lyons

Vice President: Tina Wasson

Treasurer: Nicola Selph

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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

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Publicity - Roberta Lyons

Webmaster – Alex Dorsaneo

Grebe Conservation—Marilyn Waits

To contact a board member:

Phone 707/ 263-8030

Email: redbud.audubon@gmail.com



BIRD OF THE MONTH

Ferruginous Hawk

Photos and Story by Brad Barnwell

Last month I wrote about how the Osprey would be leaving Lake County with the fall migration. This month I thought I would write about a bird of prey that actually migrates to Lake County in the fall, one of my favorites, the Ferruginous Hawk. The Ferruginous Hawk is the largest buteo found in the county during the fall and winter months. The other 3 large hawks found in the county are the Red-tailed Hawk, Swainson's Hawk and the Rough-legged Hawk. Although both the Rough-legged Hawk and the Swainson's Hawk are in the same size category as the Red-tailed and Ferruginous Hawks, the Swainson's and Rough-legged are extremely rare in the Lake County. So if you see a large hawk/buteo soaring or perched during the fall or winter in Lake County it will most likely be a Red-tailed Hawk or a Ferruginous. To help in your identification I have given you a general size comparison of the two hawks.

Red-tailed Hawk

Length: 17" to 22"
Wingspan: 47" to 56"
Weight: 1.5 lb to 3.3 lb

Ferruginous Hawk

Length: 20" to 26"
Wingspan: 53" to 60"
Weight: 2.0 lb to 3.3 lb

The Red-tailed Hawk is a year-round resident, with many more migrating into the county for the fall and winter, and is probably the most frequently seen of all the hawks. The Ferruginous is a part-time resident migrating into the county as early as October and leaving in late February or March. Although both like the wide-open grasslands, Oak savannah and



The Ferruginous Hawk migrates to Lake County in the fall.



Ferruginous Hawk *Continued...*

agriculture lands where there are good perch sites such as telephone poles or oak trees, the Ferruginous Hawk prefers the open fields. Both will hunt from a perch or while soaring. The Ferruginous will often perch on the ground.

Because of their size, color, and habitat similarities, the Ferruginous can easily be thought to be a Red-tailed Hawk unless you actually take the time to look carefully with binoculars/scope. Similar to the Red-tailed Hawk, the Ferruginous has a light and dark morph, and from my sightings it appears that the light morph is the common morph for Lake County. When perched the Ferruginous shows a predominately white breast, which may or may not have a light brown belly band, pale gray or brown streaked head, black beak with bright yellow cere and gape. The yellow gape will extend as far back as the rear of the eye. The legs will show dark rufous/brown feathering well down the leg on the adult and white feathering on the juvenile. The shoulders of the adult will be chestnut or rufous.

When seen in flight from below the wings appear much longer and narrower than the Red-tailed Hawk's wings and the wings will have narrow dark tips on the outer primaries, a dark wrist comma and underwing coverts that may appear entirely white or have light to heavy cinnamon or rufous markings.

From above the shoulders are chestnut, the back is mottled brown and the primaries are gray with black tips. The tail can show a variety of different color schemes ranging from white or gray-white to rufous with light gray or rufous/brown on the central feathers with a dark subterminal band and a white terminal band or edge. The overall impression when compared to the Red-tailed Hawk is that the tail seems white. It is always a good idea to keep a good field guide handy to help identify the hawk and if you can get a good photo that will hopefully clinch the id.



October field trip will be at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park

This month's field trip will be held at Anderson Marsh State Historic on Saturday, Oct. 21 starting at 9 a.m. The park is located on Highway 53 between Lower Lake and the City of Clearlake. We hope you can join us for a beautiful morning.

It is likely we will see numerous songbirds, herons and hopefully the usually present Black-shouldered Kite. The walk is flat most of the way, depending on which route is chosen. Participants can decide when they gather.

Please meet in the parking lot of the ranch house. All participants must pay the parking fee, which is accomplished at the parking station post on the right as you drive into the lot.

Meet board member and president, Roberta Lyons

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president of the Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association (AMIA) the cooperating association for the State Park, a board member and one of the founders of the Lake County Land Trust.

Beginning in the late 1980s Roberta became active with the Redbud Audubon Society and has served as president, secretary and newsletter editor. After a six year hiatus, she has served as president for the past three years. She is also a co-conservation chair and comments on numerous development projects that are being considered by the county Community Development Department. Also interested in historic

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.

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)

preservation, Roberta was a founding member of the Lower Lake Historical School Preservation Committee. This committee was responsible for the preservation and restoration of the historical Lower Lake brick school that now serves as the south county museum.

Roberta and her family enjoy water activities on Clear Lake, including sailing, waterskiing, kayaking and swimming. Other favorite activities are bird watching, walking, photography and music. Lake County is Roberta and her family's home and they hope that it stays a beautiful and inviting place for humans and wildlife.



Observations

By Jerry White (JRW)

A **SNOW GOOSE** was photographed by Doug Prather at Lakeside County Park on January 19th 2017. A **BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD** was found by Dan Airola in Middletown on August 24th. Vicki Miller had a **CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD** at her feeder in Clear Lake Riviera on April 6th and then had two on April 27th. On April 20th she photographed an **ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD**.

Two adult **COMMON GALLINULE'S** with a chick were photographed by Brad and Kathy Barnwell at Rodman Slough on August 15th. A **PACIFIC LOON** was photographed on Clear Lake from Highway 20 on January 9th by Dave Woodward.

LEAST BITTERN'S were found at Rodman Slough on June 27th and August 15th by Brad and Kathy Barnwell. A **ROCK WREN** was found on Hull Mountain at 6800 foot elevation on June 19th (JRW).

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 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 and letting us know.

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

President's Message

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What we believe should be considered is the importance of maintaining our natural habitats for the ranging of wildlife and the protection of native and threatened plants. At some point the cumulative impacts of extensive clearing and fencing for vineyards should be considered. There is often criticism by concerned residents about the impact of erosion from vineyards on Clear Lake. I'm not an expert on this matter but I know that good farmers do not want their soil eroding. There are numerous causes of erosion of sediments into Clear Lake including off-road vehicle trails, dirt roads, county roads, private residences, illegal marijuana grows and more. It is not fair to blame the condition of Clear Lake on vineyards or other farms. We are all to blame, including lakeside residents who remove tules and other wetland vegetation. It is illegal to do this but some people do it anyway; it is hard for the county to patrol the shoreline of this huge lake.

I believe that for the most part local vineyard developers, farmers and lakeside residents are concerned about the quality of life, the beauty of Lake County and the health of our Lake. The goal is to work together not in opposition to one another, and to educate as many people as we can about the importance of our natural habitats.

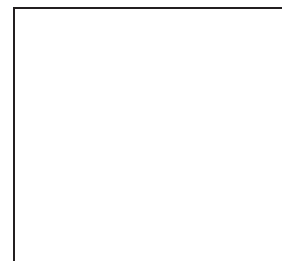
California Spiders

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spider questions. He received his Ph.D, from the University of Colorado and is an artist, writer and field biologist who has lived in Sacramento for many years. He is author of *Dragonflies and Damselflies of California*, and the illustrator of *Field Guides to Butterflies of the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento Valley Regions* and the *Field Guide to Spiders of California and the Pacific Coast States*.

The Audubon program meeting is held at the Kelseyville Presbyterian Church Social Hall, 5430 Third St. Kelseyville starting with refreshments at 7 p.m.

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