



# *The Western Grebe*

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

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

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## *Madesons to present program on their recent trip to Japan*

For the month of April, Redbud Audubon Society is pleased to present Lyle and Deanna Madeson who will be giving a program on their recent trip to Japan featuring the snow monkeys, Red-Crowned Crane, Stellar Sea Eagle and the Snowy Owl.

### **APRIL MEETING**

**Thursday, April 16**

- \* Lyle and Deanna Madeson present show on trip to Japan
- \* Refreshments: 7 pm  
Announcements: 7:15 pm  
Program: 7:30 pm
- \* Methodist Church social hall, 16255 Second St., Lower Lake

For those who have seen one of the Madeson's presentation, you know it is a real treat. In 2014 they presented their wonderful show on the natural splendors of Iceland and in 2013 it was their trip to Africa.

In order for the Japanese snow monkeys to survive the cold, snowy environment, they spend the majority of the day in a natural hot springs (about 108 degrees). Photos will include family units interacting, the Alpha males, and the antics of the babies.

Of the total of 2700 Red-Crowned Cranes thought to remain in the world, about 1000 of these endangered species reside on the island of Hokkaido, Japan.

Other birds the Madesons photographed include the black-tailed kite, white-tailed sea eagle, and the magnificent Stellar Sea Eagle, which is on average, the heaviest eagle in the world. Several owls will also be featured in their



***The Snowy Owl.***

**Photos by Lyle and Deanna Madeson**

program, including the beautiful snowy owl.

Lyle and Deanna moved to Lake County in 1976 and enjoy our beautiful county year around. Lyle first started taking pictures while photographing

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# President's Message

by Roberta Lyons

## If you care about Redbud Audubon, we could really use your help!

It is April already and time to nominate our officers and appoint board members for Redbud Audubon Society for next year.

As some of you know, we went through a comprehensive succession planning procedure last year, aided by Audubon California staff. Former president, Marilyn Waits and board member Susanne Scholz, worked hard to create a plan and to recruit new board members and search out people who would be willing to serve as officers.

The effort had mixed success. We do have one new officer, one new board member, and several helpful new volunteers. However, the effort to recruit new chapter leaders failed. You know this because I am once again the president! I served as president many years ago, holding that position for six years. Marilyn Waits was president for 8 years. Susanne Scholz has also served as president.

I'm happy to report that our current board has been fabulous and we have managed to operate as a committee, sharing in the work that is required to keep this great organization going. However, for Redbud Audubon to continue we need new board members, some who might eventually be willing to take on leadership roles, and others who would be willing to attend board meetings and help with small tasks. If you agree to join the board we promise not to ask you to be president your first year!!! Join us and see what you think. Come to our board meetings, help make decisions and lead our organization. If you believe in Audubon's cause and would like to see the continued existence of Lake County's first and oldest conservation organization, please join us.

At the program meeting in March it was very gratifying to see so many people coming to enjoy our presentation. Our field trips this year have been well-attended; the Christmas Bird Count was also a well-carried out event. We also do behind the scenes conservation oriented activities, like commenting on development projects in the county, including the proposed wind facility on Walker Ridge. If you have always wanted to be more active in the environmental/conservation movement, Redbud Audubon offers you an opportunity to do so. Please join us.

## Recommended Birding Books

By Bonnie Thompson

The question often comes up: "What bird books do you recommend?" We polled some of our avid bird watchers and have come up with a list of our favorite books. Many of these are out of print but used copies can be found for as little as \$.01 plus \$3.99 shipping. We even found a site with most books in the \$3 range and no shipping. We searched for our titles at both Amazon.com and Thriftbooks.com with great success.

***Birds of California Field Guide***, Stan Tekiela. *Identification based on color - nice pictures - easy to use.*

***Birds of Napa County***, Hermann Heinzel.

***John Muir Laws' Field Guide to the Sierra Nevada***, John Muir Laws

***National Geographic Guide to Bird Watching Sites***, Western US by Mel White

***Peterson Field Guide Birds West*** by Roger Tory Peterson

***Sibley's Birding Basics*** by David Allen Sibley. *For the more technical-minded - excellent book for those wanting to learn more about birds in general.*

***Sibley's Field Guide to Birds of Western North America***, David Allen Sibley.

***Stokes Beginner's Guide to Birds: Western Region***, Donald and Lillian Stokes

And for children, the following books are recommended: ***About birds: A Guide for Children***, Cathryn Sill. *Designed for ages 18 months to 3 years. Comes highly recommended - nice pictures.*

***National Geographic Kids Bird Guide of North America***, Jonathan Alderfer. *Covers basic birds, but true to National Geographic form, does an excellent job.*



# *A New Twist to Heron Days*

*By Vivian McFarling  
Heron Days chair*

This year Redbud Audubon has added two new tours to our regularly-scheduled Sunday tours. They last 2 ½ hours and go all the way down Cache Creek to the dam. The history as to how this came about took place two years ago when one of our brand new boaters, Ed Legan, decided to deviate from the prescribed route which goes a slight distance down Cache Creek and then heads back into Anderson Marsh proper.

Because Ed has a small trolling motor in addition to his large motor, he was able to get across the Grigsby Riffle by raising his large motor and trolling over it. He knew how beautiful that stretch of Cache Creek can be with its abundant bird life and countryside scenery. That stretch toward the dam consists of large parcels of privately-owned property, and there is no other way for the public to get to it except by boat. The trip to the dam called to him so strongly that he took that route even though he knew he wouldn't be back in time for his next tour.

When Ed failed to return at his scheduled time, we at the dock were left scrambling to squeeze people who were assigned to his boat onto other boats. When his boat finally returned, the people who were on it were thrilled with the experience they had. They were even treated to a black bear sighting. Ed apologized for taking so long, but how could you be mad at someone who had pleased so many people?

So this year we scheduled two special Ed tours leaving from Redbud Park and lasting long enough to get to the dam, enjoy the birds and views, and return in 2 ½ hours.

We have email addresses for half of our members. Those people were emailed a notification that registration for Heron Days had opened, were told about this special trip, and warned that it would fill fast. As a result, his tours were filled in three days.

We are sorry if you missed the chance to sign up for these special trips. If we have your email, you were notified; so please, if we don't yet have it, email us at [redbud.audubon@gmail.com](mailto:redbud.audubon@gmail.com) and get on our list. And we wish to thank all of you who have already done so.



## *Moore Family Winery field trip was an enjoyable day*

Twenty people attended the March Redbud Audubon field trip to the Moore Family Winery on Mt. Hannah. It was a lovely day, with great weather reports leader Pat Harmon, but "the birding wasn't very exciting," she noted. "We spent most of the day chasing little birds and our necks got a little tired!" The group did see Yellow-rumped Warblers, some Violet Green Swallows and American Robins though.

A big thank you to the Moore Family for welcoming us to their facility. Many people stayed for lunch, eating together at the beautiful facility and a few folks also enjoyed some wine tasting!

## **REDBUD AUDUBON BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



*President:* Roberta Lyons *Vice President:* Tina Wasson  
*Treasurer:* Nicola Selph *Secretary:* Marina Vedovi

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

Bird Observations - Jerry White  
Christmas Bird Count - Darlene Hecomovich  
Conservation - Roberta Lyons  
Education - Joyce Anderson  
Field Trips - Pat Harmon  
Hospitality - Pat Harmon  
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Newsletter Production - Jim Scholz  
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Webmaster - Nancy Hodges  
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**To contact a board member:  
Phone 707/ 263-8030  
Email: [redbud.audubon@gmail.com](mailto:redbud.audubon@gmail.com)**





*Antics of the Japanese Snow Monkeys were captured by the Madesons.*



*Red-crowned Cranes were photographed by the Madesons during their trip to Japan.*

## ***Madesons to present program on their recent trip to Japan***

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his gladiola hybrids for identification. It soon became apparent that he was interested in capturing more than the gladiolas on film. He branched out to the hummingbirds that frequented the gladiolas in the field, then on to a wider variety of birds. He has continued to expand his interest in macro, panoramas and landscape photography with a special interest in sunrises and sunsets. Deanna has also taken up photography and between the two of them their outstanding images have won numerous photography prizes both in Lake County and statewide in California. Don't miss this opportunity to share in their latest adventures.

## ***April Field Trip to Mendocino Botanical Gardens***

The Redbud Audubon Society April 18 field trip will be to the Mendocino Botanical Gardens. Participants are asked to meet at the Botanical Gardens at 18220 Highway 1, Ft. Bragg at 9 a.m. Leader Pat Harmon reports that the gardens present several habitats and there are a variety of birds to see, ranging from seabirds, like Scoters, to hummingbirds, warblers, thrushes, and a variety of other songbirds.

There is a fee to enter the gardens, \$10 senior, \$14 general, but if 12 or more people attend the rate is reduced to \$7.50 per person. You are encouraged to bring a lunch to enjoy at the gardens as the café is not yet open for the season. Carpooling will not be officially arranged by Redbud Audubon as some folks attending this outing plan on spending the night, but individuals are encouraged to make their own carpooling arrangements.

## ***Please provide us with your Email***

A number of our members have emailed us at [redbud.audubon@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:redbud.audubon@gmail.com), and, if you wish, let us know in what areas you feel you can help.

# Great Backyard Bird Count

*By Kathy Scavone, 4th grade teacher  
Coyote Valley Elementary School*

My 4th graders at Coyote Valley Elementary School enjoyed participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count again this year. Before we went outside, we discussed just what bird life we might see. Next, we talked about what a 15 minute bird count would look like: we will go quietly out near the school garden with our notebooks and pencils to observe and make notes. We talked about how we could make a list of the birds we saw, and for the birds that we are not sure about identifying, we can describe, or sketch certain features, like size, color, beak shape, etc. We planned on identifying the unknowns when we got back to class by looking them up.

Armed with notebooks and pencils, the class went to work and was quite observant. We saw Canada geese, a great blue heron, robins, humming birds, 2 kinds of hawks, mourning doves and more! The children enjoyed learning names of birds which were previously unknown to them. They also had fun reporting finds online on the Audubon and Cornell University website. They loved the real-time aspect of seeing the numbers rise during all of the bird-watching reporting and observations around the world. They loved that they were part of the scientific research.

Here are a few comments from my 4th graders:

*I used to think that birds were boring, but, wow! I was wrong! I saw a hawk, and some robins eating worms! I watched a bird playing in the water! I saw a blue jay and it was making a lot of noise! We saw LOTS of birds! I liked watching the woodpecker pecking up in the oak tree. The scrub jay looked happy in the garden. I'm amazed at how many kinds of birds we saw in 15 minutes!*

## 2015 Field Trip Calendar

Following is the field trip calendar for the Redbud Audubon Society for 2014/15. 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 18**

Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens, Fort Bragg

**May 2-3,**  
Heron Days

# Heron Days is coming!



## Featuring Pontoon Boat Rides on Clear Lake

**Saturday, May 2**

Leaving from Lakeside County Park

**Sunday, May 3**

Leaving from Redbud Park

- See nesting Great Blue Herons
- Clarks and Western Grebes
- Waterfowl
- Songbirds
- Audubon bird guides on each boat

**Tickets \$25 per person.**  
**Boat rides last one & one-half hours.**  
**To purchase tickets and for  
more information go to**

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

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## Redbud Audubon Society MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

National Audubon New Member Introductory Rate \$20 for 1 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**, and send me my membership card.
- ☐ I would like to subscribe to **The Western Grebe** only, for \$20.
- ☐ 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 paper! Send my newsletter by email only.
- ☐ Notify me by email about upcoming events.
- ☐ Contact me when volunteers are needed.
- My Email Address is:** \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ In addition to my membership, I would like to make a contribution to the local work of Redbud Audubon Society: ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$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

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