



# *The Western Grebe*

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

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

Volume 43 • Issue No. 7 • March, 2018

## ***Redbud Audubon to present program: “The Birds of Prey in Northern California”***

Please join the Redbud Audubon Society for an enthusiastic and informative presentation about the resident, migrant, and over-wintering birds of prey in Northern California on March 15 at the Lower Lake Methodist Church Social Hall starting at 7 p.m.

Speaker Larry Broderick will present photos and knowledge based on his three decades of studying hawks, eagles, and

falcons. His fascinating and visually-exciting presentation includes not only wonderful firsthand stories from the field, but also is packed with interest-

ing information about raptor habits, identification and suggestions of where to spot them, as well as some interesting

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### **MARCH MEETING**

**Thursday, Mar. 15**

- **Topic:** The Birds of Prey in Northern California
- **Speaker:** Larry Broderick
- **Refreshments:** 7 pm  
**Announcements & Program:** 7:15 pm
- **Location:** Methodist Church Social Hall, 16255 Second St., Lower Lake



*Bald Eagles are often seen now in Lake County.*

## ***Please note meeting place change***

Starting in January, Redbud Audubon began meeting at the Methodist Church Social Hall, 16255 Second St. in Lower Lake as we have been doing for the last few years. If you are coming through Lower Lake, turn left on Lake Street and then right on Second St. The church social hall is on the right. The beautiful Methodist Church was destroyed in the Clayton Fire, but the Social Hall where we meet was spared. We have felt that moving our meetings to the south end of the county for half of our season is a way to accommodate all of our Redbud Audubon members county-wide. Hope to see you there!

# *President's Message*

*by President Roberta Lyons*

## **Lake levels make this year's Heron Days event uncertain**



We are still unable to confirm that our annual Heron Days event will be held this year. The level of Clear Lake is too low to allow safe boarding and disembarking from the boats; plus some of the channels where we visit the rookeries may be too shallow to safely maneuver the boats.

If we have the event it will be our 23<sup>rd</sup> presentation of Heron Days. The event was cancelled in 2014 because of low lake levels, so this could have been our 24<sup>th</sup> Heron Days! I remember when we decided to start putting on a nature festival. It was back when National Audubon was still holding Regional Conferences at Asilomar in Pacific Grove. Those were the days! Susanne Scholz and I were attending, along with some other members of Redbud and there was a presentation and lots of discussion about Audubon Societies holding nature festivals. We decided that we could do an event featuring the nesting herons on Slater Island in Cache Creek.

I'm pretty sure it was 1994 when we held our first event. We worked with the former Lake County Marketing Department whose employees graciously took the names of people who called in for reservations. The cost was \$15 per person and the pontoon boats and drivers were volunteers operating under their own homeowners' insurance. We boarded boats out of Redbud Park and I simply had a list of the names of people who had reserved and which boats (out of only four) we would put them on.

The "land" part of the event included a walk at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park. A few informational booths were set up at the park including BLM and the Forest Service. Janet Swedberg, along with being a boat guide, was in charge of cooking and selling hotdogs. It was a relatively small event.

In the following years photographer Phillip Green came to present a beautiful slide show (yes, it was a slide show then,) and teach us about GBH behavior. The schools were involved too.

One year one class made a quilt. An English teacher had her students write poems about birds and another local activist got kids together to present a Heron play. My daughter was in Lower Lake Elementary then so of course I was all "gung ho" to get the school involved.

Over the years Heron Days turned into Heron Festival and under the able guidance of Marilyn Waits became a fabulous celebration at Clear Lake State Park. Marilyn took us from phone reservations to signing up and paying via the computer. Now, the event is back to Heron Days and features only boat rides at both ends of the lake.

It is still a great adventure and doing "only boat rides," still takes a lot of work. I commend the members of our Audubon board and other volunteers who continue to make Heron Days possible. The last two years it has been spread over two weekends and is held at the north end of the lake the last weekend in April and the south end, the first weekend in May.

Here's hoping we get enough rain to present our 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Heron Days and we hope to see you there.



*Larry Broderick (center) leading a raptor hike.*

## ***Redbud Audubon to present program on *The Birds of Prey in Northern California****

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one-of-a-kind and rare special surprises.

Broderick is a Sonoma County Birds of Prey Natural History and Interpretive Specialist, Jenner Headlands Hawk Watch Director, and Certified California Naturalist. He has been working with birds of prey as an educational specialist for over 25 years.

For the last 10 years he has led walks, hikes, and presentations with Solano and Sonoma Land Trusts, Madrone Audubon, the Bird Rescue Center in Santa Rosa, and Redwood Regional Ornithological Society. He conducts Bird and wildlife surveys for the Wildlands Conservancy, Sonoma Land Trust, and Pepperwood Preserve. He also runs West County Hawkwatch and manages dozens of docents, photographers and tour guides.

Larry Broderick's talks focus on the natural history and identification of birds of prey, as well as the habitat, ecosystems, and prey base required to support them.

As with all Redbud Audubon Society events, the public is cordially invited to attend.

## **REDBUD AUDUBON BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



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**To contact a board member:**

**Phone 707/ 263-8030**

**Email: [redbud.audubon@gmail.com](mailto:redbud.audubon@gmail.com)**



# ***Redbud Audubon's Christmas Bird Count Results***

**By Kathy Barnwell**

One hundred twenty-nine species of birds were seen on the Redbud Audubon 2017 Christmas Bird Count held Dec. 16, 2017. It's the second year in a row that we did not see at least 130 species, and the fourth time in the last 20 years that our count was below 130 species. In the last 20 years the highest count was 153 in 2007, and the lowest was 122 in 2003.

The weather was cold (31°) in the morning, but was mostly sunny and warmed into the 60's by the afternoon. However, it was very windy in parts of our circle, with gusts up to 45 mph. We had 37 participants, which was the lowest since 2006, when we had 31 participants.

Despite the windy conditions, the number of birds seen was 68,301, which is the highest number since 2004 when we had 135,312.

The rare birds seen this year were the Surf Scoter, Short-eared Owl and Black-headed Grosbeak. The Owl and Scoter are extremely rare in the County, and although the Grosbeak is frequent in the spring and summer, it is extremely rare in the winter. Other rare sightings included seven Snow Geese, 12 Cackling Geese, two Barrow's Goldeneye, four Green Herons, three Osprey, two Northern Saw-whet Owls, three Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, three Orange-crowned Warblers, and one Bell's Sparrow.

The Western Grebe wins the prize of the highest number with 25,235 counted. However, several others had high counts, including the Ruddy Duck with 9,282; 956 Northern Shoveler; 64 Green-winged Teal; 1,055 Common Mergansers; 6,110 Clark's Grebes; 1,500 American White Pelicans; and 3,527 California Gulls.

Lower numbers include one Greater Scaup, 43 Common Goldeneye, 68 Herring Gulls, 49 Northern Flicker, 372 American Robin, and 38 House Finches. Species usually seen but not reported this year were Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Sora, Thayer's Gull, Northern Pygmy Owl, Lewis Woodpecker, Pygmy Nuthatch and White Throated Sparrow.

We truly appreciate all the participants and their

support and efforts in making the bird count as accurate and complete as possible. Please join us next year for National Audubon's 119<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Bird Count and Redbud Audubon's 44<sup>th</sup> which will be held Saturday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> 2018.

## ***Summary of Christmas Bird Count December 16, 2017***

- 1) Greater White-fronted Goose, 3
- 2) Snow Goose, 7
- 3) Cackling Goose, 12
- 4) Canada Goose, 272
- 5) Wood Duck, 11
- 6) Gadwall, 23
- 7) American Wigeon, 33
- 8) Mallard, 651
- 9) Northern Shoveler, 956
- 10) Green-winged Teal, 64
- 11) Canvasback, 8
- 12) Ring-necked Duck, 46
- 13) Greater Scaup, 1
- 14) Surf Scoter, 1
- 15) Bufflehead, 640
- 16) Common Goldeneye, 43
- 17) Barrow's Goldeneye, 2
- 18) Hooded Merganser, 2
- 19) Common Merganser, 1,055
- 20) Ruddy Duck, 9,282
- 21) California Quail, 143
- 22) Ring-necked Pheasant, 1
- 23) Wild Turkey, 45
- 24) Common Loon, 4
- 25) Pied-billed Grebe, 96
- 26) Horned Grebe, 25
- 27) Eared Grebe, 860
- 28) Western Grebe, 25,235
- 29) Clark's Grebe, 6,110
- 30) Western/Clark's Grebe, 4,241
- 31) Double-crested Cormorant, 302
- 32) American White Pelican, 1,500
- 33) Great Blue Heron (Blue form), 34
- 34) Great Egret, 35
- 35) Snowy Egret, 3
- 36) Green Heron, 4
- 37) Black-crowned Night-Heron, 14
- 38) Turkey Vulture, 217
- 39) Osprey, 3
- 40) White-tailed Kite, 6

- 41) Northern Harrier, 4
- 42) Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1
- 43) Cooper's Hawk, 2
- 44) Bald Eagle, 4
- 45) Red-shouldered Hawk, 15
- 46) Red-tailed Hawk, 38
- 47) Ferruginous Hawk, 2
- 48) Virginia Rail, 1
- 49) American Coot, 1,100
- 50) Killdeer, 30
- 51) Spotted Sandpiper, 3
- 52) Wilson's Snipe, 2
- 53) Bonaparte's Gull, 716
- 54) Ring-billed Gull, 23
- 55) California Gull, 3,527
- 56) Herring Gull, 68
- 57) Glaucous-winged Gull, 1
- 58) gull sp., 2,432
- 59) Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon), 51
- 60) Eurasian Collared-Dove, 90
- 61) Mourning Dove, 100
- 62) Barn Owl, 1
- 63) Western Screech-Owl, 3
- 64) Great Horned Owl, 5
- 65) Short-eared Owl, 1
- 66) Northern Saw-whet Owl, 2
- 67) Anna's Hummingbird, 49
- 68) Belted Kingfisher, 11
- 69) Acorn Woodpecker, 130
- 70) Red-breasted Sapsucker, 6
- 71) Nuttall's Woodpecker, 31
- 72) Downy Woodpecker, 8
- 73) Hairy Woodpecker, 2
- 74) Northern Flicker, 49
- 75) Pileated Woodpecker, 1
- 76) American Kestrel, 15
- 77) Merlin, 3
- 78) Black Phoebe, 47
- 79) Say's Phoebe, 4
- 80) Steller's Jay, 18
- 81) Western Scrub-Jay, 137
- 82) American Crow, 215
- 83) Common Raven, 209
- 84) Tree Swallow, 2
- 85) Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 10
- 86) Oak Titmouse, 73
- 87) Bushtit, 213
- 88) Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2
- 89) White-breasted Nuthatch, 45
- 90) Brown Creeper, 6
- 91) Marsh Wren, 3
- 92) Bewick's Wren, 20
- 93) Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 3
- 94) Golden-crowned Kinglet, 5
- 95) Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 92
- 96) Wrentit, 10
- 97) Western Bluebird, 148
- 98) Hermit Thrush, 3
- 99) American Robin, 372
- 100) Varied Thrush, 5
- 101) California Thrasher, 2
- 102) Northern Mockingbird, 26
- 103) European Starling, 2,069
- 104) American Pipit, 13
- 105) Cedar Waxwing, 2
- 106) Phainopepla, 4
- 107) Orange-crowned Warbler, 3
- 108) Yellow-rumped Warbler, 62
- 109) Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's), 2
- 110) Townsend's Warbler, 7
- 111) Lark Sparrow, 40
- 112) Fox Sparrow, 12
- 113) Dark-eyed Junco, 327
- 114) White-crowned Sparrow, 235
- 115) Golden-crowned Sparrow, 446
- 116) Bell's Sparrow (belli), 1
- 117) Savannah Sparrow, 4
- 118) Song Sparrow, 35
- 119) Lincoln's Sparrow, 2
- 120) California Towhee, 85
- 121) Spotted Towhee, 43
- 122) Black-headed Grosbeak, 1
- 123) Red-winged Blackbird, 296
- 124) Western Meadowlark, 76
- 125) Brewer's Blackbird, 772
- 126) Brown-headed Cowbird, 2
- 127) blackbird sp., 110
- 128) House Finch, 38
- 129) Purple Finch, 6
- 130) Pine Siskin, 15
- 131) Lesser Goldfinch, 334
- 132) American Goldfinch, 37
- 133) House Sparrow, 35



## ***Sad figures on bird deaths reported***

**Editors Note:** The following information is from former resident, but still valued member and volunteer for Redbud Audubon, Bonnie Thompson, who gleaned this from her Audubon Society's newsletter where she now lives in Bend, Oregon.

*Bulletin had an article today on the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. In case people want to know, US News did a report that gave these figures [on bird deaths]:*

- 64 million birds a year - power lines
- 7 million - communication towers
- Climate change/coal - 8 million
- 1-3 million - industrial waste ponds (mainly water birds like grebes, loons, others)
- 328,000 - Wind turbines
- 50,000 - Solar (includes the 28k from just one field in SoCA, likely way higher)
- Cats - 1+ billion

(Oil spills are not included but are likely in the millions. The BP was charged under the MBTA for 1 million birds, but we know that number was so conservative as to render it ridiculous. The vast majority of birds killed by oil, small or large spills, are never seen or found, they get oiled but not enough to die immediately, rather they fly off to a death of hypothermia and subsequent starvation.)

## ***National Audubon names new leader for Audubon California***

Selecting one of California's strongest conservation leaders to head a premiere state program, the National Audubon Society has announced that Sarah Rose has been named executive director of Audubon California. Rose will also serve as vice president of the National Audubon Society.

Rose comes to Audubon from the California League of Conservation Voters and CLCV Education Fund, where she served as the chief executive officer.

"With so many challenges facing California's communities and natural treasures, this is an exciting time to join Audubon California," said Rose. "With its track record of accomplishments across policy, on-the-ground conservation and community engagement, Audubon California is positioned to help make a real difference when it matters most." Sarah lives in Berkeley with her husband, Brian, and two daughters. Experiencing California's great outdoors is one of the great joys of her life, particularly skiing in the Sierra Mountains and hiking through coastal redwoods.

**About Audubon California:** Audubon California is building a better future for California by bringing people together to appreciate, enjoy and protect our spectacular outdoor treasures. With more than 350,000 members and supporters in California and an affiliated 48 local Audubon chapters, Audubon California is a field program of the National Audubon Society.

Members of National Audubon automatically become members of the local chapters, such as the Redbud Audubon Society.

## ***Field Trip Calendar 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.

**March 17:** McKerricker State Park, Highway 1, Fort Bragg

**April and May:** Heron Days





*Participants enjoyed a pontoon boat tour on Cache Creek in Anderson Marsh at a past Heron Days event.*

## ***Heron Days registration on hold until March 31 to ensure lake levels are high enough***

The Redbud Audubon Society is planning to present its annual Heron Days boat tour event but is holding off boat ride registration until March 31 to assure that the lake level of Clear Lake is sufficiently high. Hoping for a “March Miracle,” planners of the event need to make sure that spring rains raise the lake level to the point where boats are able to access the channels necessary to view wildlife. Also, currently, the boat ramps are too steep to allow safe access for people boarding and disembarking.

The Redbud Audubon Society has held this event for over 20 years; it includes taking visitors on pontoon boats to different sites on Clear Lake to see nesting Great Blue Herons, Egrets, and Double-crested Cormorants. Often seen on the boat rides are numerous other wildfowl, most notably the Western and Clarkes Grebes that often put on grand displays of “dancing,” across the water as part of their courtship ritual. Grebes, too, are often on their nests that are formed on tules along the shoreline in certain areas of the lake. Boats are careful not to disturb wildlife and visitors are often treated to unexpected sightings such as otters, muskrats, and even Bald Eagles.

Last year the event was changed somewhat to increase the opportunity for participation for everyone by presenting the boat tours over two weekends. This

was a successful approach and will be repeated. If all goes well with a rainy spring, the first weekend of boat tours will be held on April 28 and 29 with tours leaving from Lakeside County Park to view Great Blue Heron rookeries and other areas of interest along the shoreline between the County Park and south of Lakeport. The following weekend, May 5 and 6, tours will leave from the Clear Lake Campground on Cache Creek (formerly Shady Acres Campground) and will visit a nesting site in Anderson Marsh State Park along Cache Creek as well as touring other areas of the marsh. Boat tours will be leaving from 8 a.m. until 11 p.m. from both sites. Registration and payment will be available at the Redbud Audubon Society website: [www.redbudaudubon.org](http://www.redbudaudubon.org) starting on March 31.

Boat tickets for an approximately 90 minute tour are \$30 with well-behaved children age 8 and over welcome. No pets are allowed.

The Redbud Audubon Society is a local conservation organization that has been operating in Lake County for 40 years. The society holds monthly programs and field trips from September through May and has been presenting Heron Days for 23 years. The public is cordially invited to take advantage of the fabulous opportunity to view the amazing wildlife on Clear Lake.



*The Great Blue Heron is the largest of the herons in North America. Notice this heron is “licking its lips.”*

# *The Great Blue Heron*

*By Brad Barnwell*

With Heron Days quickly approaching I thought it would be timely to write about the Great Blue Heron, one of Lake County’s signature birds. So here are some basics.

## **BIRD OF THE MONTH**

**Length:** 42” to 52”

**Weight:** 5 to 8 lbs

**Wingspan:** 6 to 7 ft.

**Description:** The Great Blue is the largest heron in North America. The adult Great Blue has yellow eyes and a long pointed yellow beak. The beak seems to be a clean and bright yellow during

the height of breeding/nesting season. The rest of the year the upper bill can appear dark. Throughout the year the bill is often covered with a white crusty de-

posit. On young birds the upper bill or mandible may be dark until their second year when they develop their full adult plumage.

The adult’s head is white with wide black lateral crown-stripes leading to short black plumes on the back of the head. The eye is in the white feathers just to the rear of the base of the bill. The young 1<sup>st</sup> year bird will have a completely gray or dark crown while the 2<sup>nd</sup> year bird may show a little more white in the crown during the transition to adult plumage.

The feathers surrounding the juvenile’s eye are a light gray-brown. The adult’s long neck has pinkish (to my old eyes) or cinnamon-gray feathers while the fore neck is white with dark streaking. The immature bird will have extensive brown or grayish streaking with a slight pinkish hue on the neck. The adult Great Blue’s wings, when seen from above, show dark blue-gray primaries and secondaries with battle-

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ship gray coverts while the juvenile's coverts appear to be a brownish-gray with a light hint of pink. The feathers of the upper leg or "drumstick" are brown and the long featherless legs are black. If a Great Blue gives you a good look at his backside when he takes flight you may be able to see the dull fleshy yellow/orange bottoms of his feet.

**Feeding:** The Great Blue is a typical heron when it comes to hunting and can be found at the waters edge or out in the water slowly wading in the shallows or standing perfectly still waiting for prey, which can include fish, frogs, crawfish, salamanders, dragonflies and aquatic insects. Sometimes the Great Blue will decide to change his diet and he can be found in local fields, orchards and vineyards hunting for mice, voles, young rats, squirrels and gophers. Then there are those homeowners who have visits to their backyard fishponds by Great Blues who quickly deplete the fish population of these small "fast food restaurants".

Great Blue Herons will surprise you by taking very large fish as witnessed by my wife and I while we were on Adobe Reservoir Dam looking down stream at a group of Great Blue Herons fishing the stream.

One of the herons caught an extremely long and large fish that we both thought was far too large for the heron to swallow. The heron was determined and tried numerous times to get the fish down his throat only to spit the fish out into the stream and repeat the effort. Finally the fish was in the right position and started to slide down the heron's throat. In order for the fish to continue down the heron's throat the heron had to raised his head and extend his neck to accommodate the long fish.

Once the fish was in the throat the heron's neck was not only extended to its maximum length but was stiff with the fish acting as an internal neck brace. The heron, with his beak pointing to the heavens and his neck as stiff as a board, tried to get this fish further down his throat. At this uncomfortable, and I believe critical point of swallowing, all the heron's fishing buddies flew down stream, causing this heron to panic.

He didn't want to be left alone, so with his stiff neck he tried to follow his buddies downstream, only to realize after a couple of hops and flaps of his wings that not only had his weight increased but his center of gravity had moved to the base of his neck. With all the new cargo he made some needed adjustments,



*The Great Blue Heron typically waits for its prey and stabs or grabs it and swallows it head first.*

but was only able to get about 4 feet of altitude to fly the 40 or 50 yards downstream to join his friends and continue to swallow his prize. These birds just continue to amaze me.

Typically the Great Blue waits for his prey to show itself then quickly grabs or spears his food and then tries to quickly maneuver the prey so that it goes down the throat headfirst. It is during this "feeding evolution" that some great "Kodak" moments occur. When the Great Blue and other herons are focused on food, they often let down their defenses and you can maneuver into good photo positions for catching the strike, headshake, swallow and "lip licking". That's right, "lip licking", my own unscientific term. Often the Great Blue will strike with his head disappearing below the surface of the water. With the fish held firmly in his bill, the Great Blue raises up out of the water and will shake his head from side to side then bring his head up and start to maneuver the fish/prey to the head first position for the trip down the throat. It's during this maneuvering that you can get some good photos of the last look to daylight the prey makes before heading down the Blue's throat.

Once the prey is swallowed, keep the camera shooting. The Great Blue may dip his bill back into the water to clean it off, then bring his bill back up and open his mouth just a little. That's when his rat-tail shaped tongue shoots out and he "licks his lips". He

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*The Great Blue Heron will frequently surprise onlookers with the huge size of fish it can swallow.*

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often licks or cleans the edge of his entire upper and lower bill. This is a quick lick and may be too quick to see with your naked eye, but not for your camera (if it shoots 5 + frames per second), and can be enjoyed back home on your computer. Great Stuff!

**Nesting:** Great Blues probably do not breed until their second or third year when they get their full adult plumage. The courtship starts when both the males and females arrive at their nesting rookeries in late February. The courtship involves many different displays, including what Stokes Nature Guides, “A guide to Bird Behavior volume III” refers to as: the head down display (head and neck are stretched down below the body), the stretch (the bill and neck are pointed directly up and then lowered on to the back with the bill still pointing to the sky), swaying (the male and female lock the tips of their bills and move their heads back and forth together), and the Allo-preening display (one bird rubs its bill over the head, neck and back of its mate).

The nests are relatively large, with new nests ranging from 18 inches to two feet in diameter, while older nests could be three or four feet in diameter and quite heavy. In Lake County the nests are normally built in the canopy of oaks or cottonwoods that are close to or encircled by a body of water. The two largest nesting rookeries in Lake County that I’m aware of, which have been used by the birds for years are: the upper Rodman Slough rookery and the Anderson Marsh/Slater Island rookery. These rookeries are normally composed of at least 30 and sometimes

50 or more active nests and may also have nesting Great Egrets and Cormorants. The nests are made from sticks or branches taken from surrounding trees, old nests or anywhere the adults can find nesting material.

The female lays three to seven pale bluish green eggs, laying an egg about every two days. Incubation, which lasts about 28 days, may start before the last egg is laid, resulting in the semi-altricial young hatching over a period of a number of days. Right after hatching the parents regurgitate food directly in the chick’s mouth. At the next stage of feeding the young take the regurgitated food from the parent’s mouth. In the last stage of feeding the parents simply regurgitate the food into the nest where the young fight for the food. Since the chicks are born over a period of maybe seven days, the older birds are larger and more able to win the fight to thrive and survive, which may result in the starvation of the smaller and weaker sibling(s).

Observing the nests of the Great Blues over the past years, I can’t recall seeing more than four young birds in the nest with the typical nest having two or maybe three young birds. About 60 days after hatching the young birds are capable of sustained flight and will eventually leave or abandon the nest between 64 to 91 days.

**Habitat:** Simply put the Great Blue Heron loves to live in all things riparian. Herons love the marshes, tules and weed beds bordering the bodies of water in Lake County. They can also be found in the agricul-

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# *The Great Blue Heron*

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tural areas looking for small rodents, lizards and insects.

**Migration:** The Great Blue Heron is listed as common to abundant in Lake County throughout the year. Although the heron that you may regularly see out your window may be gone one day for an extended period of time he/she has probably just moved to another “local” spot that has better hunting.

*Happy birding, Brad Barnwell*

## *Welcome new and returning members*

Welcome new and returning members: Thomasine Griesgraber, Kelseyville; Lynn Doran, Lower Lake; Christine Kuha, Lower Lake; Patricia Pneumatikos, Lucerne; Rebecca Whitt, Middletown; Marilyn Heuer, Nice.

## *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](http://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](mailto: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.

## *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.

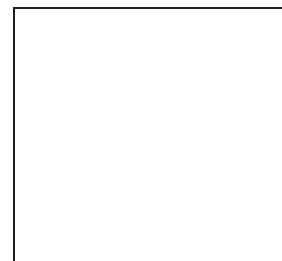
So please give us your email address by sending it to [redbud.audubon@gmail.com](mailto:redbud.audubon@gmail.com), and, if you wish, let us know in what areas you feel you can help.

## *Olympic Birdfest in April*

Olympic Birdfest, April 13-15, 2018. Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours, live auction & raffle, gala banquet, and more. Our featured speaker: nature guide/photographer Claudio Vidal. Join our festival pre-trip: a three-day, two-night birding/sightseeing cruise of the San Juan Islands, April 10-12, 2018. Register separately at [www.pugetsoundexpress.com/audubon](http://www.pugetsoundexpress.com/audubon). Extend your festival with our Neah Bay post-trip on April 16-17, 2018: two days exploring northwest coastal Washington. BirdFest registration at [www.olympicbirdfest.org](http://www.olympicbirdfest.org).



**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.

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You have the option of just joining the Redbud Chapter by enrolling online at [www.redbudaudubon.org](http://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**

***Thank you for supporting Redbud Audubon Society***  
*Connecting People with Nature since 1974*